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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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WORLD

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» PAGE 21

Record-early $134M budget bill now with Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

For the first time in CNMI history, the Legislature passed on Friday a budget bill more than three weeks before the start of a new fiscal year on Oct. 1. The $134.33-million fiscal year 2015 budget bill is now with Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who is more than likely to sign it into law.

The House of Representatives and the Senate passed the 2015 spending measure in back-to-back sessions on Friday afternoon.

The final version that's now before the governor for action was a product of a six-member bicameral committee tasked to come up with a compromise budget bill.

» House, Senate pass spending bill during back-to-back sessions

At the Senate, the budget bill passed by a vote of 7-0 with one absence.

But at the House, the 2015 spending bill passed at 3:04pm by a vote of 16-1, with three absences.

Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), the only one among 17 House members present on Friday who voted "no," said there are still a lot of "big" and "small" concerns that the Legislature still has time to address before sending it to the governor for action.

"We're not on the 11th hour. I think we still have time to address these concerns," Camacho said. "We can never have a perfect budget for sure but I think we can make it better so that ev-

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DENNIS B. CHAN

Gov. Eloy S. Inos presents DFS Group CEO Philippe Schaus with some local souvenirs at the DFS rebranding event last Saturday at the Tipiyeew Village in Garapan.

DFS Galleria rebrands as T Galleria

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Tipiyeew Village project celebrates two new houses

The worldwide rebranding of DFS Galleria into T Galleria by DFS Group officially hit the shores of Saipan in an event last Saturday with the dedication of the DFS-sponsored Tipiyeew Village's ancient latte stone house and canoe house, as well as a visit from DFS CEO Philippe Schaus.

In an interview, Schaus said DFS has made sure to

See DFS on Page 4

Japanese investor readies $1.6M cargo, passenger ship home-ported on Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What started as a good tourist experience on Rota for Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto and his son turned into an opportunity to help the local economy a dozen years later by investing a minimum of $1.6 million in a retrofitted cargo and passenger ship that will bring passengers, agricultural goods, and other consumer items to and from Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), left, and Japanese businessman Takahisa Yamamoto, right, show on Friday afternoon a photo of M/V *Luta*, a 150-ft. long, 500-ton cargo and passenger ship that will be providing services to Rota, Saipan, Tinian, the Northern Islands, and Guam as early as November this year.

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Local

Inos proclaims Nov. 4 special election, petition filing until Sept. 18

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos proclaimed on Friday morning a Nov. 4 special election to fill a vacancy at the Senate representing Saipan, with the date coinciding with the general elections to help save the government nearly $100,000.

At the same time, the governor signed into law a bill that essentially prohibits those who were already certified to run for the two Saipan senatorial seats in the general elections from also running in the special poll to fill a Senate seat vacated by now independent lieutenant governor bet Ray Yumul.

"So there you have it. It's open," the governor said, referring to the immediate opening of the petition-filing period.

Besides the general election and the special election, the CNMI is also headed for a record-breaking third election in November—that of a gubernatorial runoff race when none of the four gubernatorial candidates get at least 50 percent plus one of the actual votes cast in the general polls.

Inos, in his one-page Sept. 5 proclamation, said all nomination petitions for the special election shall be filed with the Commonwealth Election Commission on or before Sept. 18.

The commission has until Sept. 22 to act on the petitions filed.

Robert A. Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Election Commission, said holding the special elections on the same date as the general elections would save the government close to $100,000. This was also the election board's recommendation.

In responding to the governor's question, Guerrero said a separate ballot would be prepared for the special election.

Guerrero said the board would hold a special meeting to address the special election and other set deadlines as a result of the proclamation for a special election.

The executive director said there are now some 17,500 registered voters in the CNMI, the first time that the numbers breached the 17,000-mark.

The numbers include less than 100 voters who registered during the recent 10th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament in Portland, Oregon.

'Can't run for multiple seats'

The governor signed also on Friday morning a bill that prohibits a person from running for more than one public office in a general, local or special election.

Senate Bill 18-66, authored by Sens. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan) and Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota), is now Public Law 18-63.

"We find this bill to be an appropriate public policy and I therefore approve it into law," the governor said right before signing the measure.

The NMI Constitution's Article II Section 9 requires a special election when there is a vacancy in the Legislature and if one-half or more of the term remains.

Former Senate floor leader Ray Yumul was serving less than half of his term when his candidacy for lieutenant governor was certified on Aug. 13, leaving a vacancy at the Senate. The governor held off on proclaiming a special election until Sept. 5 so that a special election can be held up to 60 days later, to coincide with the general elections.

The governor, in his proclamation, also ordered the Election Commission to designate and publicize the polling places for the special election no later than 15 days prior to the special election.

The Election Commission is also ordered to establish all other deadlines associated with the special election, as well as to ensure the publication of the governor's special election proclamation in a newspaper of general circulation in the CNMI and its posting on Saipan.

Only a few names of potential candidates for the special Saipan senatorial seat have so far been floating around, including that of John Oliver "Bolis" Gonzales.

Couple sues to challenge constitutionality of NMI gun law

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A U.S. Navy Gulf War veteran and his Chinese wife, who suffered serious injuries during a home invasion, have filed a lawsuit in federal court to challenge the constitutionality of the CNMI Weapons Control Act that prohibits all residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes.

David J. Radich and his wife, Li-Rong Radich, are suing Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero for violation of their right to keep and bear firearms.

The Radich couple, through counsels Daniel T. Guidotti and David G. Sigale, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to issue injunctions enjoining Deleon Guerrero from enforcing against them the prohibitions on virtually all CNMI residents from obtaining handguns for self-defense purposes and the probation on obtaining a Weapons Identification Card (WIC) and possessing a firearm for self-defense purposes; and for good cause requirement for obtaining a WIC.

The couple asked the court to declare that such prohibitions are null and void because they infringe on the right of the people to keep and bear arms in violation of the Second and Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Radich was born in California. He is an honorably discharged U.S. Navy veteran who served in the Gulf War. He used to work at a public school on Tinian then moved to Saipan in 2008 to work for an environmental consulting firm. He and Li-Rong have been married since 2009.

Guidotti and Segale stated in the complaint that the couple have been and continue to be extremely concerned about the self-defense of their persons.

The lawyers disclosed that in 2010, while Radich was away and his wife, Li Rong, was at home alone, their home was invaded.

Li Rong was attacked and beaten resulting in injuries, including two broken ribs, facial contusions, and a suspected broken orbital bone and eye socket.

Li Rong screamed out for help and caused the home invader to leave. She eventually recovered physically, but both plaintiffs incurred medical bills for Li Rong's care.

Guidotti and Sigale said the CNMI prohibition on possession of handguns by virtually all CNMI residents, significantly limits the plaintiffs' ability to protect themselves and their family in the event of violence.

At the same time, the lawyers said, plaintiffs' ability to obtain a Weapons Identification Card (WIC) for self-defense purposes significantly limits their ability to protect themselves and their family in the event of violence.

On July 31, 2013, the couple applied to the CNMI Department of Public Safety for a WIC.

The DPS commissioner is the authority charged with issuing WIC to residents of the CNMI.

The lawyers said though the law requires a WIC to be issued if an application is not denied within 60 days, plaintiffs received neither a WIC nor a denial during that time period.

In September 2013, Radich contacted the commissioner's office regarding their pending WIC applications, and that a representative for the commissioner informed them that their applications were being reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General.

The lawyers said Radich and his wife have been denied the ability to legally register and possess handguns for immediate self-defense.

The lawyers said the Second Amendment "guarantee[s] the individual right to possess and carry weapons in case of confrontation."

Activities lined up for Cultural Heritage Month

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council, in collaboration with the Carolinian Affairs Office, will be launching its activities for this year's Cultural Heritage Month. These include the launching of a photo exhibit and identification project.

Historical photos of Carolinian people during the German, Japanese, and U.S administrations will be on display during "Uumw Night," which is every Friday of this month. It will begin Sept. 12 from 5pm to 9pm at the Carolinian Utt on Beach Road, Garapan and is open to the public.

The council and CAO seeks the community's help in identifying people in the photographs and the significance of their traditional cultural attire.

The council will also have a special presentation on the Chamorro language on Sept. 18. The event is from 6pm to 8pm and is free of charge.

Cultural Heritage Month coordinator Gordon Marciano also wants to remind the public of CAO's activities as well.

On Sept. 23, there will be a ceremony to honor the 13 Fishermen who lost their lives at sea and are memorialized by the 13 Fishermen's Monument along Beach Road. This will be followed by Chief Aghurubw Day on Sept. 27, to honor the Carolinian navigator who resettled his people in the Northern Marianas in 1815 after a major typhoon destroyed their islands in Satawal, which is now part of the Federated States of Micronesia.

For more information on the council's events, contact 235-4785. For more information on the Carolinian Affairs Office events, contact 234-6385. ***(Jayson Camacho)***

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

Tourism is everybody's business.

International Festival of Cultures

The **Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA)** kicks off its newest annual signature event, the **International Festival of Cultures**, on Sept. 13, 2014.

Organized in conjunction with the **Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture** and **PDM Promoters**, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays at **Paseo de Marianas** pedestrian mall in Garapan.

Slated for September 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014, on each night various cultural groups from the Pacific and Asia will showcase their heritage through performing arts, cuisine, and arts and crafts. Demonstration booths will feature basket weaving, mwar-making (floral head lei), storyboard carving, origami paper folding, and more.

In addition, a parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30 p.m. in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Rd. to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Ave.

Booths will open at 5 p.m. Performances begin at 6 p.m. and the event will run until 11 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Govt issues Pagan mining permit to JG Sablan Rock Quarry

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government issued last seek a mining permit to allow businessman John T. Sablan and his JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc. to conduct mining on Pagan Island for 20 years, according to attorney Michael Dotts.

Dotts, counsel for Sablan and JG Sablan Rock Quarry Inc., disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that on Wednesday, the new mining permit was recorded, giving JG Sablan Rock Quarry 20 years to mine on Pagan Island.

Dotts also disclosed that on Thursday, he and the CNMI government advised Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman of their settlement and the recording of the mining permit.

The lawyer said following the settlement and the recording of the permit, more than eight years of litigation in Superior Court has ended.

"JG Sablan is very pleased to have all the litigation over and to have the right to mine on Pagan Island again," Dotts said yesterday.

Wiseman is handling over the legal action between JG Sablan and the CNMI government in the local court that began in 2006 when DPL terminated the company's mining permit.

The parties also engaged in legal dispute in federal court arising from the mining permit issue.

The parties recently reached an agreement to settle all the lawsuits both in local and federal courts.

With the settlement, last month U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona dismissed Sablan's and JG Sablan's lawsuit against DPL.

Sablan and JG Sablan Rock Quarry reportedly reached a $4.8 million settlement with the CNM government.

Sablan has agreed to pay $4.8 million to the CNMI government. In exchange, the government will issue a mining permit to the company for Pagan.

The length of the permit will be for 20 years, with a $100,000 permit fee payable in 120 days from its execution.

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IN ONGOING JURY TRIAL OF ROBERTO

Parties ordered to submit pleadings on admissibility issue of text message logs

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has ordered the prosecution and the defense counsel in the ongoing jury trial of Raymond B. Roberto to submit over the weekend pleadings in connection with the U.S. government's oral motion to admit several hundred pages of redacted text message logs.

In a written order issued on Friday, Manglona ordered the U.S. government to submit no later than 12 noon, Saturday, Sept. 6, a memorandum in support of its motion.

Manglona said the memorandum should explain the relevancy of the proffered exhibits and specify the grounds on which the messages are not inadmissible hearsay.

"With respect to the balancing of interests, the memorandum should address not only the danger of unfair prejudice to the defendant, but also whether the probative value of the proffered exhibits 'is substantially outweighed by a danger of… confusing the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, wasting time, or needlessly presenting cumulative evidence,'" the judge said.

The memorandum, she added, should also address whether admitting these exhibits without providing Roberto the opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses as to their content presents a confrontation clause problem.

Manglona said Roberto may file a response to the U.S. government's memorandum no later than 12 noon yesterday, Sunday.

On Thursday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Rami S. Badawy moved to admit the redacted text messages logs.

Some of the text messages in the redacted logs have already been admitted into evidence in another format, but it appears that most of the messages are not yet in evidence. The logs have already been authenticated.

Badawy asserted that the messages in the proffered exhibits are relevant and not unfairly prejudicial to Roberto. He said the statements contained in logs either are no hearsay or fall within one or more exceptions to the hearsay rule.

Roberto's lead counsel David J. Lujan objected to admission of the exhibits. He described the government's motion as an "ambush trial."

The issue prompted Manglona to order an early recess on Thursday afternoon and instructed the jurors to come back today, Monday, for the resumption of the trial.

Manglona issued the written order on Friday regarding memorandum submission to facilitate the orderly and prompt disposition of the U.S. government's motion.

Roberto, 41, a former acting director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife, is on trial for three counts of enticing three minors to engage in prostitution and one count of witness tampering.

The prosecution called its last witness on Thursday.

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Public auditor re-appointment 'an open question right now'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Public auditor Michael Pai's reappointment or replacement hangs in the balance barely a month before his current six-year term expires in October, as Gov. Eloy S. Inos said on Saturday that it still is "an open question right now" and he has "a few names in mind" that he's not ready to disclose yet. Inos said he would meet with Pai personally in a week or two before deciding.

Pai's reappointment or replacement "depends on many things," the governor said.

When asked whether he would inform Pai that he as governor is also considering other individuals for the post, Inos said, "If I'm looking still by that time, I will tell him. If not, I will tell him the same."

Pai, an appointee of former governor Benigno R. Fitial in October 2008, told *Saipan Tribune* earlier that he is "interested in continuing" his work as CNMI public auditor.

Inos said "ideally" he would like to have his own appointee for public auditor "but that really is not the case. "

"I'm going to be meeting with Mr. Pai in the next week or two to talk about this and other matters…" the governor told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday night at the newly-renovated cultural village in Garapan as part of DFS Galleria's rebranding. The luxury shopping giant reinvented itself as T Galleria.

With Pai at the helm of the Office of the Public Auditor, high-profile corruption cases were pursued including those involving Fitial and his attorney general Edward Buckingham.

Buckingham was found guilty of all public corruption charges except one and was sentenced to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended. The case against Fitial is still ongoing. Fitial became the first CNMI governor to be impeached by the CNMI House of Representatives on corruption, felony and neglect of duty. He resigned on Feb. 20, 2013, days before an impeachment trial at the Senate.

Inos said the public auditor's position has specific qualification requirements, including being a certified public accountant.

"I've checked a few people and they just don't want it (the public auditor's post)," Inos said. "It's an open question right now."

When asked whether he's satisfied with Pai's performance, Inos declined to comment.

Inos, when asked why it wouldn't be Pai again, he countered, "Or why him again?"

"It's really unfair for him because I haven't discussed this in detail (with him), the kind of questions you're asking," the governor said.

Concerned citizen Glen Hunter said he believes that OPA under Pai's guidance "has done a large service to our community."

"They were a saving grace to governmental authority under the Fitial administration. When the former AG and former DPS commissioner not only turned a blind eye but also assisted in acts of public corruption, the Public Auditor and his team stepped up. They have directly investigated and challenged numerous allegations of public corruption. Without Pai and his team, I believe that the pleas from this community for justice against the former AG (Buckingham) and impeached governor (Fitial) would have gone unanswered," Hunter told *Saipan Tribune*.

Hunter reminded that much of those exposed public corruption cases are still ongoing.

And because of that, he said there is a strong chance that current government officials who may be tied in some way to those ongoing investigations "would be hopeful that Pai's contract not renewed."

"Therefore, it is up to the community to ensure that does not happen," Hunter said.

Hunter added that with Pai reportedly wanting to remain at his post, "I believe it would be unconscionable for the sitting governor not to reappoint him."

"A move such as that would send a strong negative message to the community on where this administration stands on the issue of public corruption. If any department deserves credit for tackling, head on, the recent abuses of power and authority by Fitial, Buckingham, and others, it definitely is Pai's OPA. I commend Pai on his performance and thank him and his team for all they have done and continue to do to fight public corruption," Hunter added.

Pai earlier said OPA is quite proud of its accomplishments during his term, including the refocusing of the audit operations and increasing the number of audits.

OPA has also enhanced the government corruption and white-collar crime investigations division "and believe that there will be cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General in the pursuit of corruption in the coming months," Pai had said.

OPA has also improved the processing of appeals of procurement decisions, he said.

Pai has been a certified public accountant for more than 20 years. He attended the University of Hawaii, where he completed degrees in engineering and business administration. He put up his own accounting firm in 1986, after working for a number of corporations and an accounting firm. He was also a shareholder for some businesses based in Guam, Minnesota, and Saipan.

JAPANESE

From Page 1

Guam as early as November this year.

Yamamoto, from Osaka, Japan, owns Luta Mermaid LLC, the main business of which is to operate a cargo and passenger ship named M/V *Luta*.

"Luta" is other name for "Rota," where the cargo ship will be home-ported.

Right now, the 150-ft. long, 500-ton cargo ship is in Louisiana awaiting a certificate of inspection from the U.S. Coast Guard.

But Fidel Mendiola Jr., who oversees the operation, said the U.S. Coast Guard certificate of inspection could be obtained by middle of September.

The ship can accommodate 18 passengers and can carry up to 28 20-ft. containers.

Senate Vice President Victor Hocog (R-Rota), who has helped Yamamoto realize his plan to further develop Rota, said having a cargo ship home-ported on Rota will reduce freight costs and therefore lower the price of commodities.

Hocog said the company plans to provide farmers initial free freight costs to Guam "to realize more of their profits."

The senator said this cargo ship will also be the "answer" to Rota's longstanding problem of food and other commodities shortage every time barges cannot go into the port because of rough seas; the last crisis was from November 2013 to February 2014.

"This ship is able to move even if it's tropical depression (condition). It can go into the channel. It is equipped with two bow thrusters," Hocog said, adding that the cargo ship will be using Rota's West Harbor.

Yamamoto, along with Mendiola and Hocog, met with Gov. Eloy S. Inos on Friday morning to let the governor know of the status of the company's business plans.

Once the U.S. Coast Guard grants a certificate of inspection, M/V *Luta* could leave a Louisiana port by late September for a 45-day voyage that would take it to the Panama Canal and on to Rota. If all goes well as planned, the cargo ship could be on Rota by November or weeks before the holidays.

In an interview at the Senate on Friday, Yamamoto said he and his son came to Rota as tourists, specifically to go scuba diving, some 12 years ago. He said he loved the place and its people.

"It was really a good memory for me," Yamamoto said.

Last year, he said he came back and had a chance meeting with Hocog and the Rota mayor. He said he discussed with the Rota officials ways they can further develop the island. Yamamoto has a degree in agriculture so the idea of transporting agricultural products didn't come as a surprise.

After all, Hocog said, "shipping is one of the backbones for economic revitalization."

Luta Mermaid LLC has already complied with other requirements to operate in the CNMI and Guam a cargo and passenger ship, according to Mendiola and Hocog. These include a Homeland Security background check.

BUDGET

From Page 1

erybody will be satisfied or can sleep at night."

Among the concerns that Camacho, along with Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Felicidad Ogumoro (R-Saipan), and other members, raised during the session were the lateral transfers of Department of Public Works employees to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Parks and Grounds Division. Camacho said these employees have different skills, knowledge, training, and responsibilities.

"So my question to the chairman was, are we moving bodies or are we just moving numbers because it's going to be difficult for these people to transfer and the government has invested so much into these people, to their training," he added.

Rep. Tony Sablan (Ind-Saipan), co-chair of the bicameral budget committee, said "there's no such thing as a perfect budget" bill but he said he's confident that the spending package passed is a workable one and takes into consideration most agencies' needs including the Public School System and Northern Marianas College.

Sablan, author of the original budget bill, co-chaired the conference committee with Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota). The other conferees were House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), House Floor Leader Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Sen. Pete Reyes (Ind-Saipan), and Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian).

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) confirmed on Saturday night that he has signed off on Friday afternoon on a document transmitting the budget bill to the governor.

The speaker said with the Legislature's early passage of a budget bill, the governor has the luxury of time to scrutinize it unlike in previous years when Inos and others before him only had one or a few days to review the spending package before acting on them.

"I know he has more than ample time, so we don't have to shut down the government," he added.

Rep. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) also sought justification on the salary increases for certain positions mostly in the Department of Finance, to which the Ways and Means Committee chairman said were justified given the long-time stagnation of these salaries and the increased collection and enforcement efforts.

Education Committee chair Roman Benavente (Ind-Saipan) thanked the conferees for adding more funding for PSS and NMC.

Other members also thanked the conferees from the House and Senate for coming up with a compromise budget bill.

The budget bill gives PSS $1.161 million more specifically to hire new teachers to reduce student-teacher ratio in classrooms, as well as to ensure that salaries will comply with a new 50-cent federal minimum wage increase effective Sept. 30. NMC also got $157,000 more to ensure that it also meets maintenance-of-efforts requirements, just like PSS.

The compromise bill also allows a two-month advance allotment for lawmakers, instead of a three-month advance as the Senate earlier proposed.

The House and Senate also sent the governor a budget bill that no longer has an earlier Senate provision allowing a $400,000 offsetting of government debt over unpaid La Fiesta leases in exchange for waiver of taxes and gaming fees for property owner Bridge Capital LLC.

The spending measure also restored a nearly $400,000 funding for Tinian, bringing it to its 2014 level.

House Bill 18-201, House Draft 3, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 2, Conference Committee Draft 1, is expected to be signed long before the Sept. 30 deadline.

The governor said his staff has been monitoring the progress of the budget bill at the Legislature.

Three years ago when he was acting governor, Inos signed the budget bill on the day of his birthday. Inos turns 65 on Sept. 26. He said on Friday that waiting for his birthday won't necessarily be the case this year.

DFS

From Page 1

adapt their rebranding initiatives locally.

"Each one is an individual rebranding, each one has an individual strategy," Schaus said.

Along with their authentic, locally made "destination products" at every one of their locations, Schaus said DFS makes sure to invest in every destination on a community level as well.

"It is important for DFS that every destination we are present, we are part of that destination," he said.

He noted how DFS has been on island for 38 years, even before Saipan became developed as a tourist destination, adding that their founders helped develop the airport to make it accessible for larger airplanes.

"'We are very much engrained on Saipan, it is part of our heritage and culture," he said.

Schaus added that on top of their unique destination products they are also promoting Saipan abroad in their travel offices like in Hong Kong.

"Bring[ing] customers to Saipan has been a very important initiative for DFS over the last year," he said.

Schaus said over the last five or six years there has been an evolution in the customer base as their predominantly Japanese customer base progressively moved into a mix of Japanese, Chinese, Korean, and Russian customers.

"In parallel to that, we have made our concept evolve to be more attractive to these new groups," he said, as the "T" in T Galleria stands for "traveler" and is meant to evoke modern travel and simplicity.

"We realized that our customers our predominantly Asian. We felt that having a very simple name would be a big advantage. And what is simpler than having a one-letter name? Everybody can remember one letter," he said

Tipiyeew Village

According to Marian Aldan-Pierce, president of DFS Saipan, the Tipiyeew Village project is collaboration between DFS and the Office of Carolinian Affairs.

She said DFS sponsored the building of the life-size ancient Chamorro latte stone house and Carolinian canoe house as their aim is to have a place where tourists and visitors can go for arts and culture.

"We want it to have a life on its own," she said.

Part of the event last Saturday involved various booths showcasing salt-making, *mwarmwar*-weaving, and bead-making, which are activities she hopes the village will offer regularly.

She said a regular two-hour event on Fridays could become a "home" for cultural activities and traditional dancing and competitions.

"The location is perfect. It's right in the heart of Garapan… You can have over a 1,000 people within 10 minutes of walking," she said.

One of the showcases at Saturday's event was the "T in Art" exhibition showcasing talents like Phillip Canuto, Ernie David, Gregg Elliot, Mike Finey, and Tim Deleon Guerrero.

The artists transformed a standing "T"-structure into works of their own design.

Finey, a wood carver, for example, carved flowers, dolphins, and turtles as well as a canoe-paddle, gluing them to his structure as part of a message of travel and good fortune.

On permanent display at a latte stone in the village is Robert Hunter's painting of a beaming young girl holding a seashell to her ear.

Wiseman sets Nov. 24 jury trial for Ogumoro, Kosam, Rebuenog

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has set for Nov. 24, 2014, the jury trial of former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio T. Ogumoro, former Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordan L. Kosam, and former CPA police captain John T. Rebuenog.

Wiseman ordered Ogumoro, Kosam and Rebuenog to appear at a status conference on Nov. 5, 2014 at 1:30pm.

The judge said if the three defendants will not show up at the hearing, a bench warrant will be issued for their arrest.

At a trial setting conference on Wednesday, Ogumoro appeared with his counsel, Edward T. Arriola. Kosam and Rebuenog appeared with their respective counsels, Joaquin Torres and Colin Thompson. OPA legal counsel George L. Hasselback represented the CNMI government in the case.

Thompson informed the court that an indigency assessment is undergoing by the Office of Adult Probation. Thompson requested that should Rebuenog be found indigent that he be appointed counsel. Wiseman granted the request.

In the meantime, Wiseman said Thompson is appointed as counsel for Rebuenog pending a final report on defendant's indigency.

The Office of the Public Auditor charged Ogumoro, Kosam, and Rebuenog along with former Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Fitial's former personal driver and bodyguard Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes for their role in, among other things, shielding then attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served with penal summons in August 2012.

OPA filed 15 criminal charges each against Ogumoro and Kosam, and 13 charges against Rebuenog.

On Feb. 25, 2014, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo dismissed without prejudice the case against Nekaifes at Hasselback's request.

Dismissed without prejudice means the plaintiff is allowed to re-open the case in the future.

Hasselback agreed to dismiss the case against Nekaifes as part of the government's deal for the former police captain to testify against Buckingham.

During Buckingham's trial, Nekaifes testified that Fitial instructed him not to allow the Federal Bureau of Investigation agents from approaching and serving a penal summons to Buckingham at the Saipan International Airport on Aug. 4, 2012.

Nekaifes also stated that he believes that part of the purpose of escorting Buckingham and his wife to the airport was to prevent OPA from preserving the penal summons.

On May 1, 2014, OPA filed a complaint charging Fitial with 10 various criminal charges. OPA later amended the information to include three more charges.

The charges are related to the unauthorized release of a federal inmate, award of a sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act contract, shielding of Buckingham from being served with penal summons, and the execution of a power purchase agreement contract related to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Fitial, 68, pleaded not guilty to all charges.

Last Feb. 19, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo found Buckingham guilty of all public corruption charges except one and sentenced him to 3.5 years in prison, all suspended.

Govendo also ordered the 65-year-old Buckingham to pay a $14,000 fine and placed him on unsupervised probation for 3.5 years.

Govendo recused from presiding over the cases against the remaining defendants. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Murals raise environmental awareness at Paseo

Murals have been painted around the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan as part of the Bureau of Environmental Quality's 2014 "Storm Drain Mural Art" project to raise awareness about storm drain dumping in the area.

"This is like the heart of the center, this is where everybody comes," Olivia Tenorio the project's coordinator said.

A contest was held to select the mural painted near the storm drains, with seven overall selected from a pool of 70 drawings to be painted unto sites with supplies provided by BECQ.

April Cabrera a senior who just graduated from Kagman High School won first place. Second place went to Javin Okawa, a senior at KHS. At third place was Melvin Sakisat, also a senior at KHS. Honorable mentions were Roxy Lamar, who had the help of her art class in Oleai Elementary paint her mural, according to Tenorio, and Nemie Baiza Jr of Marianas High School, Janet Estrellado of MHS, and Brett Halstead of KHS

Tenorio said she asked the artists—who were largely students—to provide something "eye-catching" as well as something that could serve as an "environmental tool and message" that could draw public attention to the connection between storm drains, pollution, and impacts on marine life.

"All [the artists] needed to do was to come up a message and design and transfer it on to the pavement," she said.

One mural of a person with his mouth wide eating fish, with a message to the side that read: "Treat it like you'd eat it."

"[People] think that [the water] is treated but it's untreated. Unlike [water] treated in a plant… it goes directly to the ocean," Tenorio said.

She said BECQ has plans to put the murals up on their website, along with profiles of the contributing artists.

Money awarded for first place was $100; for second place, $80; third place, $60. The four other honorable mentions received $50 each.

Judges for the contest were Vinnie Sablan and Tom Pangelinan of BECQ, Geralyn Dela Cruz of Division of Fish and Wildlife, and Mary Ann Arriola of the Zoning Office. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

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PUBLIC NOTICE
AMENDMENT #02

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Special Meeting of the Board scheduled on Thursday, September 11, 2014 – 10:00 a.m. is moved to **Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMARY MATTERS
  a. Call to Order
  b. Roll Call
  c. Adoption of Agenda
  d. Adoption of Minutes
    i. August 20, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. NEW BUSINESS
  a. Blue Water Homes Return and Reallocation
  b. Direct Family Loan Supplemental
  c. Loan Modification
  d. Salary Adjustment Act
IV. OLD BUSINESS
  a. NMHC's Policies and Procedures
    1. CDBG
    2. Program and Housing Division
    3. Mortgage & Credit Division
    4. QAP 2015/16
V. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

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Diocese discusses Child Protection Policy and Procedure

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
tamanglona@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Child abuse can happen anywhere, even in a Church setting, according to visiting Deacon Richard Shewman.

Shewman conducted a weeklong workshop for CCD teachers and catechists last Saturday to discuss Child Protection Policy and Procedure.

In an interview, Shewman said that all states, including the Commonwealth, have laws that require that certain professionals report possible child abuse to the police or other public safety authorities.

"In order to keep people informed of their responsibility under the law it is the normal practices for hospitals, schools, and other organizations where there are large numbers of mandated reporters to have workshops at least once annually to remind and update them abut their responsibility and how to go about fulfilling that responsibility," he added.

Shewman told the *Saipan Tribune* that the workshop was an attempt to provide such training to the clergy, teachers, and religious education volunteers.

He noted that protection and safety of children is an on-going concern. Although Shewman said that he is unsure that the urgency to create awareness today is greater than in the past, he explained it is always an important concern and must be a priority.

"If anything has changed it is the realization that abuse can happen anywhere, even in a Church setting, which people once thought of as a safe place," he said. "Church leaders and the faithful need to be extra vigilant to guard against abuse in every setting."

Sr. Marita organized the workshop for the CCD teachers. She was not available as of press time for comment.

Fr. Jason Granado expressed his gratitude to Shewman. "The insights he shared with us are deeply appreciated and helpful," he said.

During his time on Saipan, Shewman said he enjoyed "every minute of my visit."

"While my life circumstances brought me to Erie, Pennsylvania, my heart is very much in the CNMI. Being on Saipan, I was back home. It seemed as if I never left, being in places I knew well and with friends that I had known for many years but had not seen in a while," he added.

Shewman will be flying back to assume his roles in Erie, Pennsylvania, where he resides, but said that he hopes to be back on the island very soon.

He currently serves as a canon lawyer and judge on the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Erie. Additionally, he also serves as associate director for the Permanent Diaconate in the Diocese of Erie, where his primary responsibility is with administering the deacon formation program.

Shewman is assigned for parish ministry at St. Luke Parish in Erie and also teaches several courses each term as an adjunct instructor at Mercyhurst University and occasionally at Gannon University.

He was ordained to the diaconate on September 24th 1984 at Mt. Carmel Church Saipan by Bishop Anthony S. Apuron.

Shewman will be celebrating 30 years of service to the church since his ordination this month.

DEBUT CELEBRATION
Jovie Molina celebrated her 18th birthday last Sept. 5 at Shirley's Coffee Shop Susupe. Her actual birthday was yesterday, Sept. 7. Happy birthday from your family and friends.
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CNMI Domatusri does well at Domonnaka Festival

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Domatsuri team together with the CNMI's 2014 Liberation Queen and Saipan Mayor Marian Tudela brought cheers to visitors of this year's 16th Annual Domonnaka Festival held recently in Nagoya Japan.

The annual cultural event took place from Aug. 27 to 29 and is also called the Domatsuri Festival. It featured dance troupe members from all over Japan as well as teams from the CNMI and Taiwan.

According to Pacific Development Inc. director Gordon Marciano, the CNMI Domatsuri team performed—along with 40,000 dancers under 209 teams—in front of 2.2 million visitors.

Marciano said that the visitors watched the performances on 20 different locations across Nagoya.

Tudela along with two her staff accompanied Preschanel Camacho, 2014 Liberation Queen, during the event and invited the people of Nagoya to visit the CNMI. Tudela met with the mayor of Nagoya as well and appeared on one of the city's newspapers. Photos of the CNMI dance team also ended up in different news companies from across Japan.

The CNMI Domatsuri team has been successfully attending the event under the Marianas Visitors Authority the past 13 years when the program was introduced to MVA through PDI's Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc.

"This is to ensure that we continue to foster the goodwill relation between Nagoya and the CNMI through its cultural exchange program. The CNMI had a special team that was featured in Domonnaka, the mass dance that has become the signature song for all Nagoya, and Nagoya appreciates the CNMI's presence in the biggest dance festival," Marciano said.

Marciano wants to extend his appreciation on behalf of PDI for the sponsors. They are IT&E, Pacific Trading Co., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., KKMP, Saipan Mayor's Office, and MVA.

"It is one program that MVA spends to send dancers and in return the CNMI receives millions of free promotion and exposure for the CNMI," he said.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 8, 2005

'SPED teachers not exempt from PRAXIS requirement'

Special Education teachers are not exempt from taking PRAXIS I and II as the exams are part and parcel of the Board of Education's continuing effort to achieve "highly qualified teachers" in the CNMI. Special Education coordinator Joanne Nicholls said the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001's definition of "highly qualified teacher" requires even special education teachers to take PRAXIS as part of their certification. PSS associate commissioner for administrative services David M. Borja said SPED teachers must also satisfy the HQT requirement for CNMI public school teachers. Initially, PRAXIS I was a requirement for the teachers, Borja said, but if they are teaching a specific subject content area, then they must also take and pass PRAXIS II. The question of whether SPED teachers are included in the certification requirement was raised during the regular monthly Board of Education meeting held last week at the PSS office on Capitol Hill. Currently, there are 47 teachers under the PSS Special Education program. There are also 132 teacher aides assisting these SPED teachers. Figures on the number teachers who have taken and passed PRAXIS are not yet in, said Nicholls. The CNMI has currently over 723 students enrolled in the Special Education program.

It's about time

Tokyo is an hour behind Saipan. Manila, two. Hong Kong, two too. That's easy, but as for anywhere in the U.S. mainland (quick, tell me what time it is in Phoenix), time zone conversions have been a constant rock in my shoe. It doesn't help any that the U.S. Daylight Saving Time insanity makes the conversions slide back and forth over the course of the year… and even this isn't constant, given that the state of Arizona does not observe DST (are you sure about that Phoenix time, Bubba? Better re-check that calculation). What a mess. This problem has dogged anyone making telephone calls from Saipan to the states, or vice versa. Fortunately…after all these years…these cruel, miserable years…I have stumbled across a workable solution. Sometimes, you've just got to throw money at a persistent problem. So I did. I dropped a couple of hundred bucks on a wristwatch that displays three time zones at a time, and allows me to easily (that's the key word, "easily") read any time zone in the world. The item at issue is made by Citizen, and is a line of chronographs called the "Skyhawk" that is designed for pilots. You don't have to be a pilot to wear one, of course; nobody audits the customer lists.

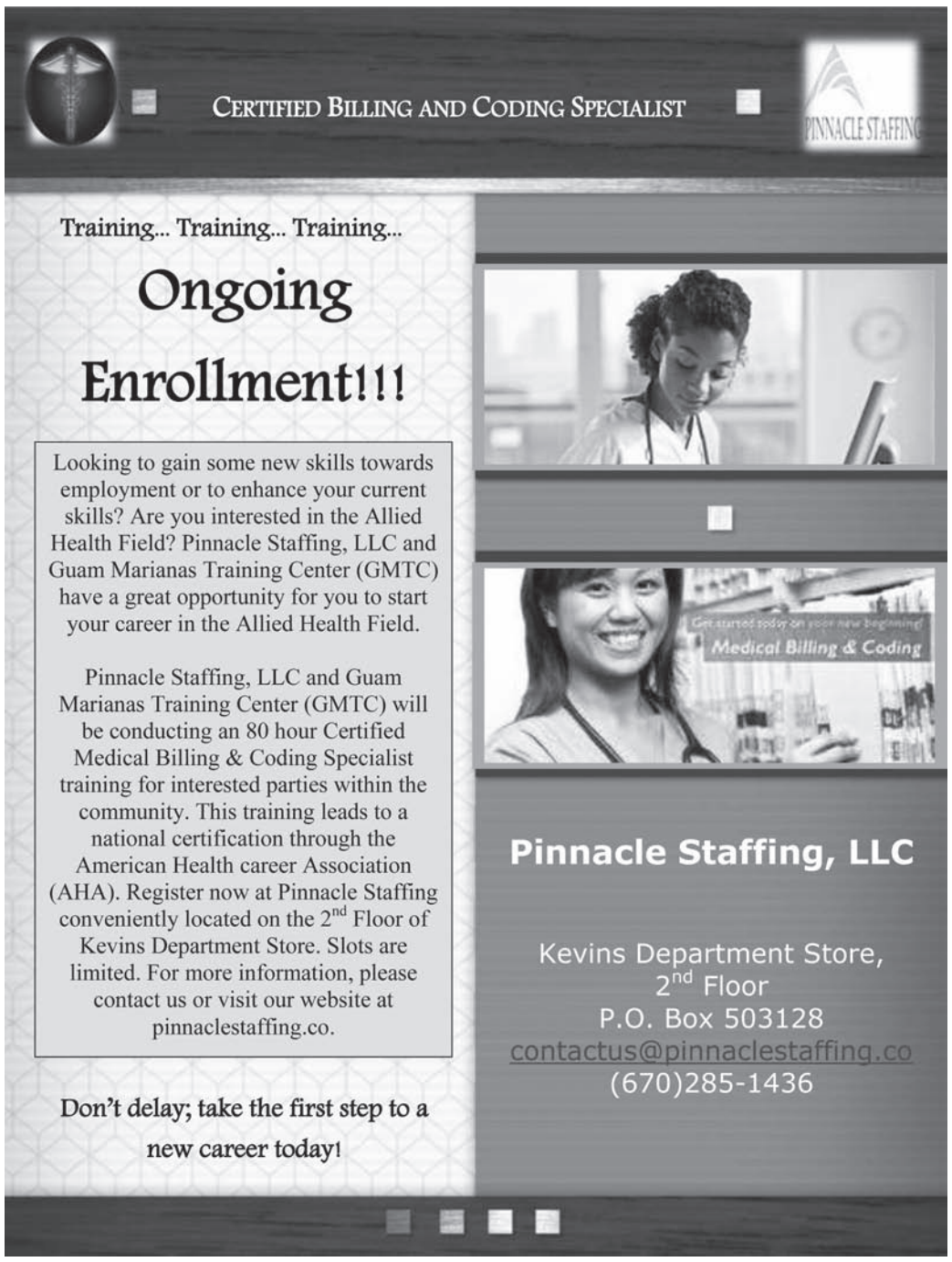
September 8, 2011

ICE repatriates Saluta from Guam to the Philippines

Noel Sacramento Saluta failed to appear at his Aug. 16, 2011, sentencing in the Superior Court because Immigration and Customs Enforcement took him to Guam and repatriated him "under escort" to the Philippines on Aug. 17, according to court documents. Saluta's counsel, assistant public defender Douglas Hartig, recently submitted to the Superior Court letters from Philippine Consul General Medardo Macaraig and ICE supervisory detention and deportation officer Vida A. Leon Guerrero that confirmed Saluta's deportation to the Philippines. Hartig attached the letters in Saluta's motion to return the latter's passport and the $525 cash posted for his release to his wife. Upon Macaraig's inquiry on Saluta's whereabouts, Leon Guerrero informed him on Aug. 18 that Saluta was "repatriated under escort" from Guam to the Philippines aboard Continental flight 191 at 8:10am on Aug. 17. Macaraig then immediately informed Hartig about Saluta's whereabouts. In May, a Superior Court jury found Saluta guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon charges for chasing a man with a knife. Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja, who decided on the misdemeanor offense, found Saluta guilty of disturbing the peace.

Rose Dance School turns 2

The Rose Dance School successfully marked its second year anniversary with 70 current and former students as well as regular customers taking part in the celebration at the dance studio on Saturday. Dance instructor Eden Quizon said that several dance performances such as rumba, chacha, and salsa by himself, instructor Resty Joson, and school owners Rose Chan and Carol Wong Chan entertained guests at the party. Quizon said they also had a trivia game that drew the participation of guests because of exciting prizes that included gift certificates from KFC, Canton Restaurant, and Venus Beauty Salon. "We're very happy about the successful anniversary celebration," Quizon told Saipan Tribune. "We hope that more individuals will sign up for our lessons at Rose Dance School." Rose Dance School promotes dancing as a fun and healthy activity as it helps burn calories, increase energy levels and flexibility, sharpen coordination and reaction time, improve posture, attitude and mental health, as well as reduce stress levels.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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-14-005

6-IN DIP WATERLINE ABANDONMENT FOR SAN VICENTE AREA EXTENSION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the abandonment and installation of waterlines in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. This project consists, in general, of abandonment by cut and cap of existing six (6) inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) water main along Chalan Msgr. Guerrero Rd and the reconnection of any existing service laterals onto near or adjacent service mains. It also includes the installation of a new four (4) inch PVC waterline complete with new flush hydrant, all necessary valves, fittings, service connections, and water meter reconnections, as well as asphalt paving restoration, traffic control, soil erosion control, etc. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A mandatory pre-bid conference followed by site visits will be held on **August 28, 2014 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Training Room, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-14-005, 6-in DIP Waterline Abandonment for San Vicente Area Extension Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 17, 2014**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bid in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on September 2, 2014** to Manny B. Sablan, Manager, CUC Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to James Benavente, Junior Engineer, CUC Water/Wastewater Division via email address james.benavente@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Joeten is a Green Gala Emerald Sponsor

As part of its commitment to supporting conservation efforts, Joeten recently contributed more than $5,000 in in-kind donations to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. Joining the ranks of Emerald Sponsors, the highest level of sponsorship categories, the donation was made as part of MINA's annual fundraising event, the Green Gala, which will be held on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014.

"We are extremely grateful for Joeten's support of this year's Green Gala," said Frankie Eliptico, chairperson of MINA's board of directors. "Joeten has been a longtime supporter of MINA and we appreciate their continued partnership."

"The Green Gala continues to be an important source of funds for community conservation projects that promote environmental stewardship," said Joeten Business Development manager Bo Palacios. "We are pleased to be contributing as an Emerald sponsor for this year's Green Gala and look forward to an exciting event."

The leading conservation nonprofit organization in the Commonwealth, MINA has successfully implemented many projects, including the Obyan Rehabilitation Project, Schools for Environmental Change workshop, the Marine Debris Prevention program, Tasi Watch Project, and the Adopt-A-Bin Project, which has placed recycle bins at all the major beaches on the island.

In addition to lively entertainment, dinner and a variety of beverages, the Green Gala will feature brief highlights from MINA's projects, a silent auction, and many other activities that promises a memorable evening.

Last year's Green Gala was sold out, so organizers are encouraging those who plan to attend to buy their tickets early.

Tickets for the Green Gala event can be purchased at the MINA Office in Gualo Rai or from any of the volunteer Board members.

There are four categories of sponsorship (Emerald, Title, Major, and Event categories) that correspond to the value of companies' contribution. To become a sponsor of the event, please contact Brooke Nevitt at 233-REEF (7333), or email castro.fran@gmail.com. ***(MINA)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance chair Frankie Elliptico accepts Joeten's donation while staff from Joeten and MINA pose for a photo.

Military exercises at AW-517 on Sept. 12

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Office of the Governor, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit will be conducting Military Exercises at AREA W-517 Irregular Poly-Gon south of Guam on Sept. 12 from 6am to 11:59pm.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity Gov. Eloy S. Inos is advising the general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CNMI Emergency Operation Center- Dispatch Center at telephone number (670)237-8000, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211 for this advisory. ***(PR)***

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION RATE PETITION AS AMENDED

DOCKET 13-01

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

On September 3, 2014 the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation [CUC] and the Commission's regulatory consultant [Georgetown] recommended that the Commission approve a proposed contract by which large commercial customers could access incentive tariff arrangements, which were approved by the Commission's July 24, 2014 decision in this docket. The purpose of this tariff is to encourage eligible large commercial establishments to become full service CUC customers.

For the public's information, the following documents have been posted on CUC's website: 1) the May 28, 2014 stipulation between CUC and Georgetown regarding the incentive tariff; 2) the proposed incentive rate contract; and 3) a proposed net economic benefit protocol.

The Commission welcomes written comments concerning the proposed incentive rate contract, which should be filed with the Commission at its office [Suite 103 CDA Building, Beach Road, San Jose] or by email to schobwuutpremier.consulting@gmail.com. Comments should be filed on or before September 23, 2014.

Questions concerning this notice should be referred to the Commission's administrative assistant Rose Ada-Hocog at 670-989-1199.

September 5, 2014

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

How to punish the Islamic State

President Barack Obama on Wednesday promised to "take the fight" to the terrorist organization that beheaded two American journalists and "degrade and destroy" it. Yet Obama has not approved U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State forces in Syria and remains opposed to the redeployment of U.S. combat troops in Iraq (although he has ordered airstrikes in that country and has increased the number of troops guarding U.S. facilities there).

Is there a mismatch between the president's words and deeds? Not if you read the fine print of what he has been saying about Islamic State. For example, in a news conference last week Obama said the organization "poses an immediate threat to the people of Iraq and to people throughout the region." But he went on to outline a "broader, comprehensive strategy" that included regional partnerships and efforts to press Iraq to form an inclusive government that would reach out to disaffected Sunnis who have embraced Islamic State. And while he acknowledged that the Pentagon was preparing a "range of options" — presumably including airstrikes in Syria — Obama indicated that he was still weighing which, if any, to embrace.

Given the gravity of direct U.S. involvement in Syria's many-sided civil war, such careful deliberation is responsible. Unfortunately, Obama expressed himself inartfully, saying, "We don't have a strategy yet." He was actually referring to specific tactical decisions that lie in the future, but it sounded as if he hadn't given any thought to the threat posed by Islamic State. The soundbite was a gift to his critics.

Mark Twain famously said that Richard Wagner's music was "better than it sounds." The same is true of Obama's policy toward Islamic State. But if the line about lacking a strategy created one misimpression — that the administration was clueless about what should happen in the region — Obama's comments Wednesday in response to the beheading of freelance reporter Steven Sotloff could foster another: that the U.S. is about to wage total war on the organization.

The beheadings of Sotloff and fellow journalist James Foley were barbaric acts that have rightly made wanted men of the perpetrators. But there is a difference between avenging their deaths — or using air power to rescue trapped refugees, as the U.S. did last month — and undertaking a military operation to "degrade and destroy" a group that might be neutralized without such a commitment.

Obama has been careful in his actions; he should be equally careful with his words.

Obama outlined a 'broader, comprehensive strategy' on Syria that included regional partnerships

Is there a mismatch between the president's words and deeds on Syria? Not really.

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Cynthia M. Allen: Too much caution means few options for Obama

By CYNTHIA M. ALLEN
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Cynthia M. Allen is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may send her email at cmallen@star-telegram.com.

President Barack Obama's recent admission that he does not yet have a strategy to deal with the Islamic State (also known as ISIS and ISIL), which now holds significant territory in the Middle East, is the latest reminder that we are in a period of isolation — or more truthfully, one of willful blindness.

Some commentators have praised Obama for the candor of his comments. He is exercising caution, they say, as if the only alternative to being George W. Bush is being Jimmy Carter.

But most observers acknowledge the reality that editors of The Economist so aptly articulated months before the president's unfortunate phrasing hit the airwaves: "When America's president speaks of due caution, the world hears reluctance — especially when it comes to the most basic issue for any superpower, its willingness to fight."

And without a president's leadership, how does a nation know what to fight for?

Obama's reluctance to project U.S. power does not come as a surprise, nor is it a disappointment to many. Americans elected him not in spite of this tendency but because of it.

Only a year ago, the Pew Research Center found that nearly half of Americans wanted the United States to "mind its own business internationally," suggesting that even the shrinking role of the U.S. in international affairs was too much.

But on account of recent and disturbing events perpetrated by a terrorist organization that is "as sophisticated and well-funded as any group that we have seen," according to Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel — and one hell-bent on killing Americans and Europeans among others — the public has become understandably worried that a laissez-faire policy is as dangerous as a heavy-handed one.

Pew's latest study shows that more than half of Americans think Obama's approach in foreign policy is not tough enough, a sentiment undoubtedly reinforced by his clumsy, if wholly sincere comments last week.

Through the brutal killings of women and children in Iraq and Syria and the barbaric beheadings of U.S. journalists at the hands of a masked militant, Americans are only beginning to learn the breadth of the threat they face from the Islamic State.

But the administration, and the president in particular, has long known the nature of the threat that this organized army of terrorists poses to the U.S. and its allies.

Reports that Obama was given "granular" details and specific intelligence about the rise of the Islamic State for at least a year before the group descended upon Mosul make not only his inaction at the time but also his failure to clearly articulate and pursue a strategy now all the more alarming.

The refrain that people are war-weary has been a frequent media trope, but it has also become somewhat of an excuse for inaction.

To borrow a phrase from columnist Peggy Noonan, Americans are "more like war-leery, or war-wary, which a great nation should be, especially after two wars, both bungled in their execution and their ending."

But for those Americans who served, whether as civilians or in uniform — me and my husband included — the squandered opportunity to build on the success of the surge in Iraq, and the willful neglect of the threat emerging across the Syrian border, are a betrayal of their sacrifice. Even limited but strategic and sustained efforts years ago — when the available options to intervene were many — could have deterred the Islamic State's rise to power.

Instead, we find ourselves in a situation where the only palatable option may be to wait for our enemy's next deadly move. Hence our absent strategy.

The U.S. has long been entangled in a perilous and perennial cycle of total engagement followed by total abandonment of the most volatile and dangerous region in the world — which did not start with this president or even his predecessor. But it has become Obama's cross to bear.

His eventual strategy must marry a robust diplomatic and military offensive against the Islamic State, including better arming our allies on the ground, congressional authorization to use force and leading the rest of the world — from the front this time — in the effort to destroy and not merely contain the threat.

Unless his plan does all these things, the Islamic State will be his successor's cross to bear as well.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Cal Thomas: Joan Rivers and me

By CAL THOMAS
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Cal Thomas' latest book is "What Works: Common Sense Solutions for a Stronger America" is available in bookstores now. Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribune.com.

We met by accident. How else could it have been with two people who are so different? Or are we?

It was the early 1980s when a tabloid called me. They were doing a story on Joan Rivers and thought I, a conservative, would give them a quote critical of her. I said, "I won't speak to you and I don't want to be quoted as saying I won't speak to you."

They made up a quote, claiming I thought she was a terrible person.

I wrote her a letter in care of "The Tonight Show" where at the time she was substitute host for Johnny Carson. I said I hoped it wasn't necessary to deny something I didn't say and that I actually liked some of her work. She replied with a gracious handwritten note on pink stationery and included a "Can We Talk" button, which was her signature saying.

Sometime later her husband, Edgar Rosenberg, took his life. I wrote her expressing condolences. We subsequently met on several occasions and after one performance she introduced me to people backstage as "the man who wrote me a wonderful letter after Edgar died."

Joan Molinsky was born in Brooklyn, New York. Though her father was a doctor, no one made much money during the Depression and the war years that followed. In her autobiography (with Richard Meryman), "Enter Talking," Joan says her mother thought MD should stand for "making dollars."

Her parents thought she was throwing away her college education — and financial security — by her interest in show business, but while Joan worked as a department store sales girl, earning what would be pocket change today, she had her eyes on the stage as early as her teen years.

Whatever a "family values" person might think of her act, which often included coarse language, they should appreciate her work ethic. Joan Rivers played burlesque houses and other dives that today would be shut down by the health department. She never quit, but persevered until success found her.

Insecure over money, Joan embraced her greatest asset. In her book, Joan wrote: "If I was obscenely pushy, that is what drive is — wanting the impossible, wanting it all, never knuckling under to an obstacle, pushing till you get what you want. I wanted to be a star. … If I ever become somebody who stops fighting for my place in the spotlight, I will be finished. Let us not be sentimental about this. This is what reaching the top and staying there means in this business — and in the automobile business and the garment business and in politics."

One might argue whether having it "all" when you can't take it all, or any part of all with you is worth it, but if success is your vehicle and drive the fuel, then Joan succeeded by any standard and for far longer than most entertainers.

We too often judge people by labels and what we see on the outside. Reading Joan's book and knowing her just a little showed me the woman behind the facade, which was quite different from her public personae.

In the inscription to "Enter Talking" she wrote, "To Cal, thank you for being so terrific over the years. — Joan Rivers."

No, Joan, you were the terrific one.

'Is' in ISIS and Isis

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.

It is mooncake day in China, practiced widely by exchanging cakes. Xi Jinping is curtailing the corruption it spawned. We are lauding the effort, but we will go directly to Obama's IS-cake.

ISIS is a terrorist group by the western media, a "terrorist" defined as anyone against the U.S. started during the War on Terror by Cheney and company while George II Bush sat upfront.

With the emergence of Sunni and Shia fundamentalists, the word "terrorist" was further refined to be synonymous to "Islam," unless one is a sheik with oil under his control available and accessible to refinery and shipping lords, in which case, he is a Muslim of dawa (social services), a friend of the Red Crescent!

The Brits called American militia in Boston terrorists, too, in the same way as the Han brands fiery Uyghurs, Kazakhs, and Kyrgyz as waging a war on terror. The Zang of Xizang self-immolate with gas sans explosives but Vietnam takes moveable oil derricks near their shore as unfriendly and light up their Mahayana gas on plants and factories of foreign investors. Historically, Yue of Indochina is not friendly to Han, cousin of old Chang'an.

Chinese derisively refer to any Japanese as a bandit (wokou), more so now that Shinzo Abe drums up Nippon militarism. Manchukuo memory in Manchurian consciousness is aflame again. China recently played up the lessons it learned from Meiji Japan's aggressions. That marquee will play awhile.

Current mythmakers/destroyers cornered themselves into calling the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria by the acronym ISIS. The Egyptian goddess Isis played a very prominent role in the history of Egypt down to the much-adored mother and child motif in Rome.

Isis was the consort of Osiris who birthed the powerful god Horus, later decried by missionaries as a pagan whore! Isis enabled the resurrection of Osiris when the latter was dismembered to death; we hear echoes of that in the empty tomb of Gethsemani evolving into bodily resurrection. The image of Isis suckling Horus is no less than the revered Christian picture of Mary suckling the infant Jesus!

ISIS is the hand behind journalists Farley and Sotloff's head losses, becoming the demonized dartboard of the U.S.and Israel; ISIS is not a foreign child to a suckling American Madonna. An inheritor of the al-Qaeda mantle, ISIS directly leads to the mujahedeen we armed against the Russians in the Khyber Pass from whom one of its famous practitioners was Saudi Osama bin Laden. (ISIS is now also called ISIL as the Islamic State in the Levant!)

The Levant gave us Moses of the Zion of Eretz Israel, Paul of Tarsus whose efforts led to the idolatry of Iesu, and the transcendent mystery of the no-thing al-lah from the vision of the Prophet in the desert. Gaza paid dearly to the sacrificial altars of Abram recently. Christian soldiers are again crusading to war, while Mahmoud's followers assert themselves in the politics of oil. No one has clean hands. Like Vietnam's Montagnards who scrambled when U.S. forces pulled out, the Yazidi of Iraq is seen as enemies of Islam in their collaboration with the infidels against Sharia law! For Hamas' trigger happy ways, Israel just land grabbed 4 square km. of Palestinian land!

Since the earthrise of '68, I appropriated the gifts of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and moved on. n my time, the planet birthed democracy's promise of universal suffrage, a communist culture in search of justice, and socialist economics of promised equity that hover over the industrialization of the planet in obeisance to oil. The health of our finances is measured on the rise and fall of the traded commodity. It is also the basis of the local conflicts that flares now and then around pumps and refineries in Sudan, the whole Near East, and South China Sea.

We know of conservative socialist democrat Obama, and Deng Xiaoping, the free enterprise socialist with unadulterated Chinese characteristics bent on reform-and-opening-up of the bamboo curtain. The capitalist-socialist-communist spectrum shades my time and I judge the value of any system on its workable combination in bringing justice and welfare to common folks.

Cui niu bi is a "dirty" word in Chinese, used on one who talks big but no one believes. ISIS threatens U.S. Obama and U.K. Cameron. They've been posturing to do something about it.

What has become clear now is that the terrorist/liberator divide is not a useful dichotomy as one's terrorist is another's liberator. Indeed, in many parts of the world, the Caucasian soldier and those under its command are regarded as terrorists. One Kievan Rus unreported aspect of Ukraine is its "Christian" root; the separatists from eastern Ukraine are pro-Russians so they are "terrorists".

Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba of the U.S. Armed Forces investigated the Abu Graib tortures and told the Senate Armed Services Committee of findings. He was ordered to retire shortly thereafter. Liberating U.S. warriors have been determined practitioners of terror. Ask Congress. And Taguba.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Apology to the CNMI people

This is to extend my sincere apology for violating the Non-Commercial Fish and Wildlife Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code, Title 85, Subchapter 85-30.1-101, to wit: in violation of NMLAC Subsection 85-30.1-301(g)(9).

It was never my intention to create such an awkward and uncomfortable situation. I hope that I can be of assistance in correcting my mistake and resolving the matter.

While I have caused this unpleasant experience, I am able to see where I went wrong. Although it was intended for a sick elderly whom has been craving for such local delicacy, it is still in violation of the established rules and regulation as promulgated. While going thru all this unpleasantly experiences and humiliations as well as shame to both me and my family, it allows me to learn to grow and prevent similar issues in the near future.

Once again, my sincere and most greatest apologies to the people of the CNMI.

Juan Q. Inos
San Vicente, Saipan

Kudos to the Legislature

In my remarks to the Legislature in July I urged appropriation of funds for the Public School System and Northern Marianas College to meet the maintenance-of-effort requirements the Commonwealth government agreed to when accepting the 2009 State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

Some say I was unfairly critical of our Legislature. But the consequence of breaking the maintenance-of-effort agreement could be that the federal government withholds future grants to recover the $44 million in SFSF money. That would put hundreds of Commonwealth government employees' jobs on the line.

Those employees should be relieved that the Legislature's 2015 budget is reported to include $1.161 million for PSS and $157,000 for NMC. That's far short of the $9 million to $11 million that PSS estimates it is owed. But Commonwealth officials can point to the appropriation, when negotiating with the U.s. Department of Education, as showing good faith that the Commonwealth intends to keep the SFSF agreement.

I congratulate our Legislature for taking this first step and the governor, who is reported to be ready to sign the 2015 budget. And I continue to urge our local elected leaders to pay all the money promised to PSS and NMC.

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

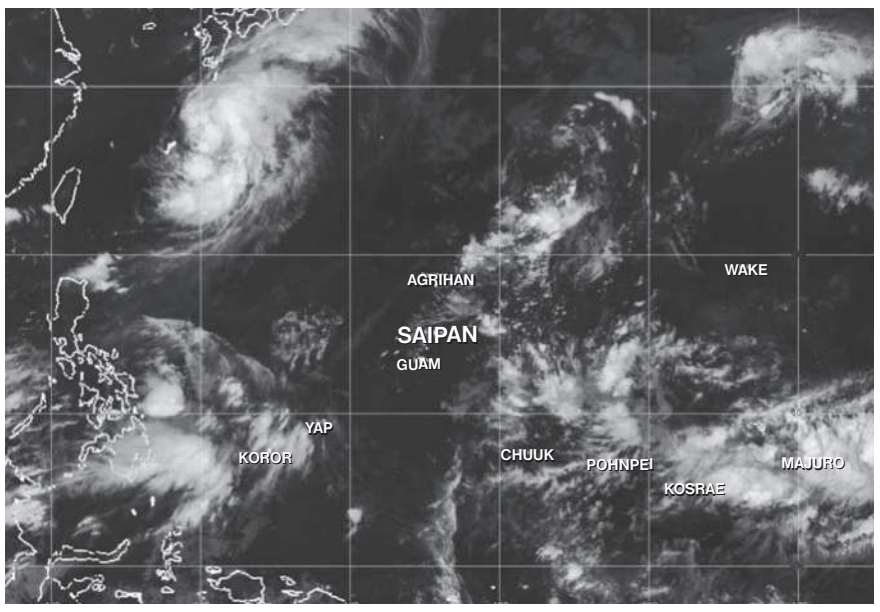
Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼79
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲82	▼80
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲82	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲57	▼48
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼61
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼80
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼75
London	Sunny	▲70	▼51
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼70
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼55
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼65
Osaka	Sunny	▲84	▼64
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼53
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼68
Rome	Sunny	▲84	▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲94	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲68	▼56
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼64
Tokyo	Showers	▲79	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼64

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A tropical disturbance is centered near Yap at 10N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found just west of Koror and Yap west of a line from 14N139E to 7N134E to 3N136E. Another tropical disturbance is centered near Minami Tori Shima at 25N154E. A surface trough extends southwest to a weak circulation near the Northern CNMI at 20N147E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen near the trough within 150 miles of a line from 18N149E to 25N155E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms north of Pohnpei and Kosrae between 7N and 14N from 157E to 167E and across the Marshall Islands to the dateline between 4N and 10N from 167E to 180. Isolated thunderstorms are present north of Chuuk within 100 miles of 10N152E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:35 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
7:07 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:59 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:37 PM	4:50 AM
Tuesday	6:27 PM	5:52 AM
Wednesday	7:17 PM	6:53 AM
Thursday	8:05 PM	7:53 AM
Friday	8:54 PM	8:52 AM

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  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:30pm	4:10pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:20pm	4:10pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:20pm	4:10pm	2, 4
UA5040	7:05pm	7:55pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:50pm	11:40pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:30pm	3:05pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:35pm	4:10pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

MU7076	4:15am	6:50am	2, 6
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764A	3:30am	7:30am	4, 7
MU764	4:00am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:15am	8:55am	3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/473	6:05am	9:45pm	1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:10pm	3 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:30pm	9:10pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	8:45pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:20pm	9:10pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5068/179	8:00am	9:55pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	9:55pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
D2 8009	12:50pm	4:05pm	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA5039/179	2:30pm	9:55pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:20pm	9:55pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:10pm	2:00pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:50pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:45pm	6:35pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:30pm	10:20pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:10pm	1:45pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:15pm	2:50pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:30am	3:00pm	3, 5, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

MU7075	9:00pm	3:15am+1	1, 5
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763A	7:25pm	2:30am+1	3, 6
MU763	7:55pm	3:00am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
DL172/288	7:55am	1:25am+1	3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:25pm	2:00pm+1	6 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	2:50pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5041	10:25pm	6:35pm+1	4, 7 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:25pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 6 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:25pm	10:20pm+1	4, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	7:30am+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:30pm	8:05am+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5039	11:30pm	2:00pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	11:30pm	8:05pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
D28008	6:05pm	1:20am+1	Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28
UA180/5071	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	9:55pm	2:00pm+1	5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5038	9:55pm	2:50pm+1	1, 3 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5077	9:55pm	8:05pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

Tasi Watch rangers call on community for fundraising

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Kolred Mettao and Wayne Dawe urged the community to support their "green" initiatives by supporting the fundraising efforts by the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance for their many projects and organization as a whole, one of which includes the Tasi Watch Project, which Mettao and Dawe said calls on them as rangers to do a lot of "hard work" keeping the beaches of the island clean of trash.

"The amount of trash out there. It's constant. Like, we clean today, tomorrow, go back out, [and] there's more trash," Dawe said.

He said part of his job is to encourage people to clean up after themselves, and noted that residents are bringing trash from home and dumping them in trash bins.

According to Mettao, the Tasi Watch project only has six rangers, who go out to beaches on their own free time.

"Six people to clean up all those trash is really hard work," he said, describing community support as "so important" to what they do.

"We're helping the community. If they help us, us being a non-profit organization, that will get us more trash bags [to recycle trash]," he said.

He urged the community to join in on MINA fundraisers like the Green Gala so they get to know the work done on the island's beaches with his team.

"'Tasi' means ocean, so that's what we do, we protect the species in the ocean and on land," he said.

The Tasi Watch Project—under MINA—is an education and outreach program to build local capacity to help manage near shore marine resources. Currently MINA is in its final stages of planning for its upcoming Green Gala event.

In a press conference Thursday, Frankie Elliptico, chairperson for MINA, called on community support as well.

"In these times…it's not easy to grow, it's really through activities like [the Green Gala] and the support of our partners in the community to help bring us to what we do," he said.

He added that MINA's Green Gala—other than helping them fund their many environmental projects—will be a night "you won't forget."

"You'll talk about it throughout the year," he said.

Survivors, caregivers support meeting set this Thursday

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 25, 5:30pm at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com or cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(CCA)***

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. Preliminary
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. Public Comments

III. Reports
- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. Unfinished Business

V. New Business
- a. Transactional Permit – Matsui Asia
- b. Adoption – Notice of Certification of Adoption of Personnel Regulations Subsection 170-30.5-010 Applications of Regulations and 170-30.5-350 Personnel Action Required
- c. Adoption – Notice of Certification of Adoption of Personnel Regulations Subsection 170-30.5-515 Annual Leave and Sick Leave
- d. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
- e. TDHC Casino Employee Applications and Hotel Registrations

VI. Executive Session

VII. Miscellaneous/Administrative Matters

VIII. Adjournment

[1]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Conference Room, 1st floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes
   a. May 30, 2014

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[1]

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

IV. NEW BUSINESS
1. Extension of Fall 2014 Supporting Documents Deadline
2. Review & Approval of Fall 2014, Academic Year 2014-2015 Scholarship Applicants
3. Disbursement schedule of Fall 2014 recipients

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHNEIDER
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
OFFICIAL SEAL

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
Special Election for the Third Senatorial District

Whereas, Section 9 of Article II of the Commonwealth Constitution provides that "[a] vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by a special election if one-half or more of the term remains"; and

Whereas, pursuant to CMC §6502, the Governor is vested with the authority to call a special election to fill a vacancy in the Legislature; and

Whereas, on August 13, 2014, the Commonwealth Election Commission certified then Senator Ray N. Yumul as a candidate for Lieutenant Governor; and

Whereas, section 5 of Article VIII of the Commonwealth Constitution provides that an "elected public office shall resign from office upon certification to be a candidate for another public office, if the term of the office sought begins before the end of the term of the office held"; and

Whereas, on August 19, 2014, then-Senator Yumul resigned from his office in the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and

Whereas, the Senate President certified that the resignation of former Senator Yumul created a vacancy in the Senate of the Eighteenth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and

Whereas, the term remaining in the vacant senatorial seat is greater than one-half of the four year term and thus must be filled by a special election; and

Now, therefore, I, Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor, do hereby proclaim and call for a **Special Election** to be held for the purpose of electing a member to fill the vacant seat existing in the Senate for the Third Senatorial District. The Special Election shall be held concurrently with the General Election on **Tuesday, November 4, 2014.**

Furthermore, all nomination petitions for the Special Election shall be filled with the Commonwealth Election Commission on or before September 18, 2014, and the Commission shall act on the petitions on or before September 22, 2014.

Furthermore, the Commonwealth Election Commission shall designate and publicize the polling places for the Special Election no later than 15 days prior to the Special Election; establish all other deadlines associated with the Special Election; and cause a copy of this proclamation to be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth and to be posted in the Third Senatorial District.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hands on this 5th day of September 2014

ELOY S. INOS
Governor

Should Fiji troops be in Syria as UN peacekeepers?

By NICK PERRY and PITA LIGAIULA
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUVA, Fiji (AP)—For years, Fiji's tiny military force has carried out two high-profile tasks: Leading coups, and peacekeeping. It's a mix that has drawn questions—now more than ever, with 45 Fijian troops captured by Syrian insurgents.

The force of just 3,500 is devoted largely to peacekeeping around the world, but lacks the sophisticated hardware other militaries rely on to keep their troops safe. The troops have not trained with their Australian, New Zealand and American counterparts since 2006, when the military took control of this relaxed South Pacific nation of 900,000.

Fiji wasn't even sure at first how many of its troops were captured last week in the Golan Heights, where they were part of a U.N. force that has monitored the buffer zone between Syria and Israel for four decades. The U.N. announced that 43 were taken. Fiji later said it was 44. By Monday, Fiji had raised the number to 45.

Jone Baledrokadroka, Fiji's former land forces commander who is now a visiting fellow at the Australian National University in Canberra, said the Golan Heights deployment appeared rushed.

"They decided to go in June last year, and by August they were in," he said. "It was quite hasty. I knew they didn't have the logistics and training for such a deployment, or for the escalating violence in Syria."

The U.N. says its peacekeepers are well vetted.

"The training, preparation and background of the troops are looked at very carefully," said Osnat Lubrani, the U.N. resident coordinator in Fiji. She added that "the intention of sending troops is that they are not meant to be in danger at all."

Fijians this week have been holding candlelight vigils for their troops, who have been held by the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front in an unknown location since Aug. 28. The U.N. says it's negotiating with the insurgents, who have made several demands for releasing the Fijians, including being taken off the U.N. terrorist list.

Fiji has long taken on an outsized role in the world's peacekeeping duties, even as it has been roiled by several domestic coups. The military promises it will finally hold democratic elections this month.

The U.N. has been willing to overlook Fiji's domestic problems when it comes to accepting its peacekeepers for dangerous and unpopular assignments. For Fiji, the work means international prestige, goodwill and money.

In 2009, New Zealand's Foreign Minister Murray McCully called the U.N. "utterly hypocritical."

"It's very hard to see how they can justify using military people who have overthrown the rule of law in their own country as the agents to enforce the rule of law as peacekeepers somewhere else," McCully told The New Zealand Herald newspaper.

McCully said Wednesday his position has changed now that Fiji has promised elections, and New Zealand welcomes Fiji's peacekeeping role.

James Brown, a military fellow at Australia's Lowy Institute for International Policy and a former Australian commander, said that prior to 2006, the Fijians were good soldiers.

"Their basic military skills were pretty impressive. They did lots of training in Fiji and lots of training with us," he said. "Obviously, they lack a lot of sophisticated equipment that other militaries have. They don't have the intelligence and surveillance systems."

Brown said he can't be sure how well trained the Fijians have been since the coup. He said he's aware they've been doing some training at a national defense university in China, which has become a close ally to Fiji in recent years.

Fiji acknowledges that some of its captured soldiers had no previous peacekeeping experience before being placed in one of the world's most dangerous and volatile regions.

"There's a mixture of old soldiers and new soldiers," said Brig. Gen. Mosese Tikoitoga, the head of Fiji's military. "In every peacekeeping mission we go to, we take new soldiers as well."

He said his soldiers have never before faced the level of radicalism they've found in Syria.

"These Fijian soldiers have watched armed elements behead people beside their gate," he said. "That would have weakened anybody in their right mind."

Tikoitoga said the Fijians were overmatched with the firepower of the insurgents and he agreed with the decision by the U.N. peacekeeping commander to surrender and turn over their weapons.

"The question running through the commander's mind was, `Do I become a tiger and fight? Or do I become a cat and fight another day?'" Tikoitoga said.

The Philippine military says it defied a similar U.N. request to surrender when its troops were surrounded by the insurgents; they pulled off a daring escape instead. The Philippine military says a U.N. commander should be investigated as a result.

Baledrokadroka, the former Fijian commander, said it was "quite disturbing" to see the Fijians surrender while the Filipinos escaped.

"It's the duty of every soldier to not be disarmed, to resist being captured," he said. "It's a shock to every former soldier like me to know this has happened. It's quite a big blow to our martial traditions. Fijians have been known as warriors down through the ages."

But Philippine Gen. Gregorio Pio Catapang said the Fijians may have had little choice because they were cornered after they retreated to a bunker.

U.N. peacekeeping spokespeople could not be immediately reached for comment this week.

Fiji's commander says the nation won't abandon its mission in Syria, and he is even willing to replace the 45 troops if they need to recuperate if and when they are released.

Baledrokadroka said he finds that attitude staggering.

"This is incredible," he said. "When you look at other democratic countries, they're looking at pulling out, but this regime in Fiji is just doing things unilaterally."

Austria and Croatia pulled their Golan Heights peacekeepers last year over fears they would be targeted. The Philippines has said it's leaving in October, and Ireland has threatened to withdraw. Among the 1,250 troops remaining are those from India, Nepal and the Netherlands.

The U.N. pays nations $1,028 each month per soldier—not enough to pay the wages of troops in developed nations but above the going rate in poorer ones like Fiji.

Baledrokadroka said his understanding is that while the Fiji military used to pocket the difference, the Fijian troops are now getting the full reimbursement rate, which, in turn, is attracting plenty of new recruits.

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA)

Office of the Governor

"Where Public Transportation Goes, Community Grows"

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Commonwealth Public Transportation Advisory Board will hold its FY 2014 First Regular Board Meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2014, 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, NMI Retirement Fund Bldg., Isa Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

Preliminary (Draft) Agenda

Call to Order
- I. Welcome & Introduction of New Members, Staffs and Guests
- II. Roll call
- III. Public Comment on Agenda Items
- IV. New Business
  - a. New Board Membership Orientation
  - b. Election of Officers
    - i. Chairman
    - ii. Vice Chairman
    - iii. Board Secretary
  - c. Technical Assistance and On-site Visits
    - i. CTAA Technical Assistance Visit
    - ii. FTA State Management Review
    - iii. FTA ESMS Gap Audit Visit
  - d. Call-a-Ride Saipan Service
    - i. Operations
    - ii. Acquisition of (4) Accessible Vehicles (Vans)
    - iii. Service Agreements
      1. Kagman Community Health Center
      2. Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
      3. PSS Co-Up Career Training Program
  - e. Saipan Fixed-Flex Route and Paratransit Systems
    - i. Saipan Fixed Route Map
    - ii. Bus Stop Designation Report
  - f. Veterans Transportation & Community Living Initiative Projects
    - i. One-Call/One-Click Transportation Information, Resource & Referral Service Center
    - ii. Marketing, Outreach & Research
  - g. New COTA Land Designation
  - h. A&E Design/Construction of COTA Administrative Building and Maintenance Facilities
  - i. COTA Website Redesign
  - j. Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
    - i. Saipan Fixed-Flex Route System
    - ii. Saipan-Tinian Ferry System
  - k. Propose CNMI Public Transportation Rules & Regulations (draft): PL. 18-50
  - l. Transportation Regional Partnership Agreement (MOA COTA & GRTA)
  - m. Parking Meter Act: PL. 18-54
- V. Reports
  - a. COTA Annual Report to Governor and Presiding Officers of the Legislature
- VI. Fund Status Report
  - a. FY 2012 Urbanized Formula Grant
  - b. FY 2013 Rural Formula Grant
  - c. FY 2014 Rural Formula Grant
  - d. VTCLI-One-Call/One-Click Service Center
  - e. VTCLI-Marketing
  - f. Program Income
- VII. Grant Application/Local Budget Request Status
  - a. DOT TIGER Grant Application
  - b. FTA Ladders of Opportunity Grant Application
  - c. 2014 Annual Budget
  - d. Saipan-Northern Islands Legislative Delegation
- VIII. Others
  - a. NMC Internship Program
- IX. Next Meeting – January 2015
- X. Adjournment

NOTE: Pursuant to PL. 8-41, Sec. 13(a)7, the board may vote to meet in Executive Session

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require special accommodations are requested to call COTA 3 days in advance at 664-2682 (COTA) or email at cota@gov.mp. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/S/ **THOMAS J. CAMACHO**
Special Assistant for Public Transportation

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

International Festival of Cultures kicks off Sept. 13

The Marianas Visitors Authority kicks off its newest annual signature event, the International Festival of Cultures, on Sept. 13, 2014. Organized in conjunction with the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture and PDM Promoters, the festival will be staged for four consecutive Saturdays—Sept. 13, 20, and 27 and Oct. 4, 2014—at the Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan. A parade of cultures will be held on Oct. 4 at 5:30pm in Garapan from the Carolinian Affairs Office north along Beach Road to American Memorial Park, ending at Coral Tree Avenue. Booths will open at 5pm. Performances begin at 6pm and the event will run until 11pm. Admission is free. ***(MVA)***

Navy training on Farallon de Medinilla

The U.S. Navy will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 5, from 7pm to 11:59pm. The U.S. military will conduct training on the island from 5am on Sept. 8 to 11:59pm on Oct. 6. The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and date indicated. The general location of the training is on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

Japan Consulate offers class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will host a class about the Japanese culture on Friday, Sept. 19, 2014, from 3pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor of the Bank of Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan. The lecture will focus on the nature of Japanese culture, *haiku* (Japanese poetry), and Japan video topics. Any interested person is requested to register by Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2014, by contacting the Saipan Secretariat at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp. The class will be limited to 10 people and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. ***(PR)***

Free workshop on project planning and development

The Administration for Native Americans Pacific Region Training and Technical Assistance Center will be conducting a Project Planning & Development Training workshop at Northern Marianas College from Sept. 8 to 10, from 9am to 4pm, in room N-5. The training will be held on Saipan but will be broadcast through videoconference live to Rota (NMC campus) and Tinian (NMC campus). The three-day workshop is free, and you can register on the first day (Sept. 8, at NMC, Room N-5) or register online at www.anapacificbasin.org. ***(PR)***

Business

US job growth drops to 142K, slowest in 8 months

WASHINGTON (AP)—A surprising drop in hiring and in the number of people seeking work in August sent a reminder that the U.S. economic recovery is still prone to temporary slowdowns.

Employers added just 142,000 jobs last month, well below the 212,000 average of the previous 12 months. The unemployment rate fell to 6.1 percent from 6.2 percent. But that was because more people without jobs stopped looking for one and were no longer counted as unemployed.

Analysts took Friday's Labor Department report in stride. They noted that other gauges of the economy—from manufacturing and construction to auto sales—remain solid. Layoffs have dwindled, too. Analysts also noted that month-to-month volatility in hiring is common even in a healthy economy.

But the dip in hiring also suggests that, though the Great Recession officially ended more than five years ago, the economy has yet to shed some of its lingering weaknesses. Held back by sluggish pay growth, for example, consumers continue to spend cautiously.

Most economists foresee an economy that's poised to make further strides, punctuated at times by modest setbacks.

The figures "will inevitably spark speculation that the US recovery is somehow coming off the rails again," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics. "However, we're not too concerned by what is probably just an isolated blip."

AP
In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 19, 2014, Freddy Jerez, of Hollywood, Fla., fills out a job application during a job fair in Sunrise. Fla.

The report showed the smallest job gains in eight months. The weaker-than-expected numbers make it unlikely that the Federal Reserve will speed up its timetable for raising interest rates. Most analysts expect the first rate hike around mid-2015.

The Dow Jones industrial average initially fell, but stocks returned to positive territory by Friday afternoon. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note dropped to 2.43 percent from 2.45 percent late Thursday. That suggests that some investors sought the safety of bonds and foresee no Fed rate increase anytime soon.

At least two temporary factors weighed on hiring in August, government officials said. A strike at Market Basket, a grocery chain in the Northeast, contributed to an unusually large drop of 17,000 jobs at food and beverage stores. That strike

For Europe's vast unemployed, hopes remain dim

WASHINGTON (AP)—For the struggling Spanish shopkeeper or the Portuguese restaurant owner, the European Central Bank's latest economic stimulus plans won't likely provide much relief anytime soon.

If ever.

Confronting a stalled economy and painful unemployment across Europe, the ECB is doing what it can. It surprised economists and investors Thursday by cutting its benchmark interest rate to a record-low 0.05 percent. And it announced plans to pump money into the financial system by buying bonds backed by assets such as auto and credit-card loans.

But Europe faces a crushing array of problems—from burdensome regulations to growth-killing budget policies—that analysts say remain beyond the ECB's powers to fix.

"Monetary policy cannot carry the entire burden of reviving growth in the absence of essential broad-ranging structural reforms," said Eswar Prasad, professor of trade policy at Cornell University.

Among the businesses and individuals who in theory might benefit eventually from the ECB's actions, optimism is scarce. In Spain, with its punishing 24.5 percent unemployment, hope is especially dim.

Pablo Torres, who manages a shoe store in Madrid, said he expects the ECB's effect "on the real economy will probably be none."

"In our case," Torres said, "we are at a standstill, not getting ahead or going backwards, and the only thing that's helped us stay afloat is tourism."

In Portugal, Jose Nunes Pereira, who opened a restaurant last month in a Lisbon business district, dismissed the ECB's rate cut as "totally irrelevant."

The cut "won't trickle down to families," he said. "It's a measure aimed at big companies, not small ones like mine."

Jeans face an uncertain future amid yoga wear rage

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans' obsession with jeans is beginning to wear thin.

Jeans long have been a go-to staple in closets across the country. After all, not many pieces of clothing are so comfortable they can be worn daily, yet versatile enough to be dressed up or down.

But sales of the iconic blues fell 6 percent during the past year after decades of almost steady growth. The decline is being driven by women, but men's interest in jeans also is fading. Why? People more often are sporting yoga pants, leggings, sweatpants and other athletic wear instead of traditional denim.

The shift is partly due to a lack of new designs since brightly colored skinny jeans were a hit a couple years back. It's also a reflection of changing views about what's appropriate attire for work, school and other places that used to call for more formal attire.

"Yoga pants have replaced jeans in my wardrobe," said Anita Ramaswamy, a Scottsdale, Arizona high-school senior who is buying more leggings and yoga pants than jeans. "You can make it as sexy as skinny jeans, and it's more comfortable."

To be sure, the jeans business isn't dead: Customer Growth Partners, a retail consultancy, estimates denim accounts for 20 percent of annual sales at the nation's department stores.

But sales of jeans in the U.S. fell 6 percent to $16 billion during the year that ended in June, according to market research firm NPD Group, while sales of yoga pants and other "active wear" climbed 7 percent to $33.6 billion.

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Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,	] CIVIL ACTION
	] NO. 14-0148
Plaintiff,	]
v.	] **SUMMONS**
	] **(for Publication)**
RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS,	]
	]
	]
Defendants.	]
	]

TO: RUDOLF W. LEIS and HELGA G.G. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED August 15, 2014

/s/ CLERK OF COURT
Fourth Publication

PART-TIME WIRELESS HANDSET TECHNICIAN

JVA# 1-2014-9

IT&E needs Part-Time Wireless Handset Technician for the Wireless Handset department. The Wireless Handset Technician provides technical assistance to customers and other staff in the provisioning, testing and troubleshooting of pre-marketed, inventory and client-owned wireless handsets, smart-phones and air cards.

Candidates are to have the following minimum qualifications:
- High School Graduate with evidence of computer technical education or training.
- Two years wireless handset provisioning and repair experience

Candidates must have:
- Telecommunications standards and practices and theories of wireless communications;
- Skills in operating and troubleshooting handsets, smart-phones, air cards and other telecommunications devices;
- Skills in hands-on technical repair of telecommunications devices;
- Skills in use of personal computer hardware and Microsoft software programs to include MS Excel, Access, MS Outlook and Word;
- clear, concise, and accurate communication with all levels of staff and customers, both verbally and in writing;
- friendly and outgoing personality.

Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by September 9, 2014 and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.

IT&E
Life in Motion

As an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer, IT&E provides equal opportunity to all applicants without regard to race, color, national origin, sex/gender, age, religion, veteran status, or disability. IT&E is a Drug Free Workplace.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following position:

Operations Manager (1)
Job duties: The operations manager is responsible in planning and implementation of the overall business direction of the company. Responsible for creating production and marketing plans and making sure these plans are implemented and targets are achieved accordingly.

Job requirements: Minimum 5 years experience in managing shrimp aquaculture business. Must have the technical knowledge on shrimp farming as well as the skills necessary in business management. Must be a graduate of a 4-year degree course related to aquaculture or business management and have proven track record of managing businesses and people. The position also requires being on call 24 hours, 7 days a week. Basic knowledge of electrical, plumbing and mechanical systems also required.

Shrimp Hatchery Supervisor (1)
Job duties: Planning and production of at least 500,000 shrimp larvae every month. Work involves shrimp broodstock selection, maturation and conditioning, breeding and larval rearing. The supervisor is also in charge in the scheduling and delegation of work to aquaculture farmers.

Job requirements: At least 2 years experience in actual L. vannamei hatchery operations. A degree in aquaculture or related field an advantage. Willing to be on call 24 hours. Good in oral and written communication and should be literate in MS Word and Excel spreadsheets.

Electrician
Job duties: Pull out, installation, repair and maintenance of water pumps, motor aerators, and other support equipment for aquaculture. Repair and maintenance of electrical installations, building, and other structures. Repair and maintenance of heavy duty generators.

Job requirements: Minimum 4 years experience in electrical and mechanical works. Related engineering degree and previous experience in aquaculture operations is an advantage and preferred. Willing to be on call 24 hours a day. Able to lift up to 75lbs.

Accountant
Job duties: Prepare, examine or analyze accounting record, financial statements or other financial reports to asses accuracy, completeness and conformance to reporting and procedural standards. Report to management regarding the finances of establishments. Establish tables of accounts and design entries to proper accounts. Develop, implement, modify and document record keeping and accounting systems. Compute taxes owed and prepare tax returns ensuring compliance with payment, reporting and other tax requirements.

Job requirements: Accounting graduate or 4 years bachelor degree in accounting. Minimum 5 years experience in accounting. Well-versed in SAP accounting or any other accounting software. Must be skilled in use of MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint. Strong communication and interpersonal skills, team player and with positive attitude.

Aquaculture Farmer (2)
Job duties: Feeding and monitoring of live aquatic animals, cleaning of tanks, weighing of feeds, harvesting and packing, nighttime monitoring, grounds maintenance and other related jobs.

Job requirements: High school graduate, in good physical and health condition, able to lift up to 60lbs., knowledge of basic mathematical calculations. Must be willing to work night shifts, be a team player and with good working attitude.

Sales Representative
Job duties: Market development, delivery, collection and other customer relations duty. Formulations of sales and marketing strategies. Market survey and analysis and competitor benchmarking.

Job requirements: Minimum experience of 4 years in the seafood retail and wholesale business. Professional driving skills required. Proficient in MS Word and Excel. With proven track record in sales specifically in market development. With excellent oral and written communication skills. Able to lift up to 60lbs.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at the Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. Human Resources Office located in Linao Ln, China Town. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, September 12, 2014.

Saipan Shrimp & Broodstock Co., Ltd. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Asia

Monsoon rains kill 128 in Pakistan, 108 in India

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Heavy monsoon rains and flash floods have killed 128 people in Pakistan and 108 people in India, officials said Saturday, as forecasters warned of more rain in the coming days and troops raced to evacuate people from deluged areas.

The annual monsoon season has struck hard across the region, leaving people to wade through rushing water in towns and villages across Pakistan and in Indian-controlled areas of Kashmir, where authorities say they are seeing some of the worst flooding in decades.

Ahmad Kamal, a spokesman for Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority, said at least 69 people have died in the eastern Punjab province since Thursday. He said another 48 people died in the Pakistan-controlled part of Kashmir and 11 died in northern Gilgit Baltistan province.

Kamal said officials believe most were killed when the roofs of their homes collapsed. He said the deluge has injured 261 people across the country.

"We are dispatching tents and other relief items for those who have been affected because of rains and floods," he said. He said the army was using helicopters and boats to evacuate people from affected areas and had set up nearly 50 relief camps to shelter them.

Kamal said more than 4,000 homes across the country collapsed partially or completely, rendering thousands homeless. Homes in Pakistani villages are often built with mud bricks and without concrete foundations, making them vulnerable to collapse under heavy rains.

In India, authorities put the death toll at 108 people, including some 30 people killed when a bus filled with a wedding party washed away in a flooded stream. Four passengers managed to swim away, but others remain unaccounted for, officials said.

At least 300 federal rescue workers have joined thousands of state police and soldiers to rescue tens of thousands of people stranded across the region.

"The government will leave no stone unturned to help the people in distress," Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said in a statement.

Seoul: N.Korea again fires short-range projectiles

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea on Saturday continued its string of rocket and missile firings, launching three short-range projectiles into the waters off its east coast ahead of a major holiday celebrated by both Koreas, a South Korean defense official said.

The projectiles flew about 210 kilometers (130 miles) before landing in the water, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of office rules. It wasn't immediately clear what sort of projectiles they were.

North Korea routinely test-fires missiles and rockets, but it has conducted an unusually large number of weapons tests this year, including the launch of a short-range projectile on Monday. Pyongyang has expressed anger over U.S.-South Korean military drills and various South Korean government policies. The North says the drills are invasion preparation. Seoul and Washington say they are routine and defensive.

The launch came as the Korean Peninsula begins celebrating a major holiday, similar to Thanksgiving in the United States. The three-day holiday starts Monday, but many people were already traveling to visit family over the weekend.

Separately, on Friday, North Korea said it would send back a South Korean man who entered the North illegally, in an apparent conciliatory gesture.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim Sang-geun entered North Korea through a third country after having unspecified difficulties living in the South. It said Kim asked to live in North Korea and bring his family members from the South but the country decided to repatriate him next Thursday.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a statement it has informed North Korea that it will take custody of Kim.

About 27,000 North Koreans have defected to South Korea to avoid poverty and political suppression since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, but South Koreans defecting to North Korea are uncommon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Detained American in North Korea gets trial date

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Detained American Matthew Miller will be tried next Sunday, North Korean state media said, less than a week after the detainee made a rare foreign media appearance to plead for help. Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief dispatch Sunday that the Supreme Court decided to "judge" Miller on Sept. 14. It did not elaborate on specific charges against him, although past reports have accused him of hostile acts. Miller, 24, was detained after entering the country April 10, when he tore up his tourist visa at the airport and shouted that he wanted to seek asylum, KCNA has reported.

PH senator pleads not guilty to graft

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine senator who was one of the most powerful men under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos on Friday pleaded not guilty to 15 counts of graft for alleged kickbacks from state anti-poverty funds. The ailing 90-year-old former Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile told the anti-graft court during arraignment he did not commit any crime. Government prosecutors accused Enrile of engaging in a conspiracy involving his former chief of staff, Jessica Lucila Reyes, and more than 40 other people to divert about 345 million pesos ($7.9 million) in development funds to non-existent projects. The charges against Enrile and two other senators allegedly involved have been hailed as among the strongest indications that President Benigno Aquino III is determined to stamp out the corruption that hobbles this Southeast Asian nation's economic growth.

Malaysia to send team to jet crash site in Ukraine

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia aims to send a search team to the crash site in Ukraine of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 before winter sets in to gather physical evidence to prove that it was shot down, Prime Minister Najib Razak said Saturday. Najib said the government has "pretty conclusive" intelligence reports about what happened to the jet carrying 298 people but evidence must be collected so that its downing can be proved beyond a doubt if the case goes to court. "That's why we are very, very keen to re-enter the crash site before winter sets in. We need at least a few weeks not only to search for the body parts of victims but to assemble physical evidence," Najib said at a joint press conference with visiting Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott.

Nation

Wife, son of Ebola patient visit Nebraska center

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A doctor who became infected with Ebola while working in Liberia visited Saturday with two of his family members at the Nebraska hospital where he's receiving treatment, a spokesman said.

Debbie Sacra and the couple's oldest son interacted with Dr. Rick Sacra for about 25 minutes Saturday via a video link, according to Nebraska Medical Center spokesman Taylor Wilson.

Sacra, 51, is the third American aid worker to be sickened with the virus and is being treated in a 10-bed special isolation unit.

Debbie Sacra said in a news release from the center that she was relieved to see her husband.

"He asked for something to eat and had a little chicken soup," she said, adding that he did not remember much from Friday, when he first arrived.

Wilson told The Associated Press on Saturday that Rick Sacra's condition was unchanged from the day before, when he was deemed sick but in stable condition.

AP

SIM USA President Bruce Johnson speaks at a news conference in Omaha, Neb., Friday Sept. 5, 2014, on the condition of ebola patient Dr. Rick Sacra, 51, who is being treated at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Neb. Sacra, who served with North Carolina-based charity SIM, is the third American aid worker infected by the Ebola virus.

Sacra, a doctor from Worcester, Massachusetts, spent 15 years working at the Liberia hospital where he fell ill. He said he felt compelled to return after hearing that two other missionaries with the North Carolina-based charity SIM with whom he'd worked were sick. He delivered babies at the hospital, and was not involved in the treatment of Ebola patients, so it's unclear how he became infected with the virus.

An estimated 2,100 people have died during the outbreak, but Ebola has not been confirmed as the cause for all of the deaths.

In her statement Saturday, Debbie Sacra thanked the hospital staff and said she said she and her husband were most interested in keeping the focus on the outbreak in West Africa.

"The story is the crisis in West Africa. That is what is most important," she said. "The world is coming to this fight late."

9/11 museum shows SEAL's shirt from bin Laden raid

NEW YORK (AP)—The shirt a Navy SEAL wore in the raid that killed Osama bin Laden and a special coin given to a CIA officer who played a key role in finding him are being displayed at the Sept. 11 museum, adding potent symbols of the terrorist attacks' aftermath days before their anniversary.

The items are going on view Sunday at the ground zero museum, where leaders see them as an important and moving addition to a collection that often uses personal artifacts to explore the events and impact of 9/11.

"The death of Osama bin Laden is a huge part of the history, and we have an absolute obligation to tell it," National Sept. 11 Memorial Museum President Joe Daniels said Saturday. The display, he said, "allows millions of visitors the chance to recognize the extraordinary bravery of the men and women who sacrifice so much for this country at home and abroad."

The shirt and coin will join an existing display with a brick from the compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where the terrorist at the helm of the attacks was captured and killed.

The uniform shirt, tan with camouflage sleeves and an American flag patch—facing backward to invoke the historical role of a flag-bearer leading a charge into battle—belonged to a now-retired member of SEAL Team Six, which put an end to the long manhunt for the world's most wanted terrorist. The garment "connects us in a powerful and immediate way to that operation," Museum Director Alice Greenwald said.

The red, white and blue coin was made to commemorate its conclusion. The coin bears the date—May 1, 2011, in U.S. time—on one side and a red "X" on the other. It was owned by the CIA officer, known as "Maya," who formed the basis for the main character in the Oscar-winning 2012 movie "Zero Dark Thirty."

Suspect in 4 deaths caught at Florida hotel

HUDSON, Fla. (AP)—Greg and Margaret Brown, their daughter Megan and her young son moved from Pennsylvania to Florida a few months ago, looking for a fresh start after operating a farm that bred and boarded horses and dogs.

"We are in Hudson Florida for a while," a posting on the farm's Internet site said.

Trouble followed.

On Thursday, Pasco County sheriff's deputies checking on the family noticed a bad odor in the area, and followed it three-quarters of a mile down the street to a gruesome discovery: the bodies of two men and two women, piled atop each other in an open field. They had apparently lain unseen for several days.

The sheriff's office tentatively identified the victims Saturday as Megan Brown, 27; her parents, Margaret and Greg Brown, both 52; and another man, Nicholas Leonard.

The Brown family recently lived in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley, as did Adam Matos, 28, whom police are calling the only suspect in the slayings. Matos has not been charged, and he denied any involvement in the killings to reporters shortly after authorities caught up with him and Megan Brown's 4-year-old son at a downtown Tampa hotel.

He appeared in Hillsborough County court Saturday on a warrant charge, then was transferred to Pasco County Jail.

Police said Matos—believed to be the boy's father—had been staying with the Browns in a rented home along a canal leading to the Gulf of Mexico in Hudson, located in Pasco County about an hour and a half northwest of downtown Tampa. Both Matos and Megan Brown had gotten jobs at restaurants near the home.

Brown worked at a place called The Fisherman's Shack, a wooden building that isn't far from a canal.

World

Mixed views in East Europe on higher NATO defense

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Leaders in most Eastern European nations are just short of jubilant after NATO created a rapid-reaction "spearhead" force to protect the region from Russian bullying. They have long sought a commitment to allay their fears, especially following Russia's recent aggression in Ukraine.

But not all share in the joy. Some who spent decades under the Soviet yoke—politicians and ordinary people—think that the move could enrage Moscow and undermine the sense of security they have felt since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the expansion of NATO in the 1990s.

The region's long-standing distrust of Russia became more acute following Russia's annexation of the Crimea Peninsula and its role in the armed conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Poland, the region's largest country and most potent speaker, has pushed for a large, permanent deployment of at least two divisions of NATO troops on its territory as a deterrent to any such activity in Russia's west.

AP

U.S. President Barack Obama, center, British Prime Minister David Cameron, right, and U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel listen as NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen speaks during a leaders meeting on the future of NATO at Celtic Manor in Newport, Wales, Friday, Sept. 5, 2014.

The NATO summit in Newport, Wales this week settled for less, after Germany and some other major members insisted they want to keep a dialogue open with Moscow. The summit decided on a new, rapid-reaction force of some 5,000 troops, a "spearhead" ready to deploy to any conflict zone in a matter of hours. The command and key infrastructure is to be located near the Russian border. In Poland, many presume.

"We would have liked more but let's be happy with the decisions taken in Newport," Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk said. "We still have a lot of work to do to make this quantitative change satisfying."

But, he insisted: "This signal is very strong and our Eastern neighbor (Russia) cannot ignore it."

As the summit deliberated on Friday, Ukraine, Russia and the Kremlin-backed separatists signed a cease-fire and the months-long fighting in Eastern Ukraine seemed to be held back.

On his way home from Newport, Poland's President Bronislaw Komorowski made a stop at a NATO-linked multinational force in Szczecin, in northwestern Poland, that is to be strengthened under the new strategy. Some speculate Szczecin may host the command of the "spearhead."

Komorowski said he would like the new force to be linked "to the maximum" to the area of potential use because "we expect that the area on (NATO's) eastern flank will be an area of more crises and more challenges."

Poland's former ambassador to NATO, Jerzy Maria Nowak, believes that NATO's decisions may be a comfort for some, but "for Russia they may be a provocation and a violation of the agreements" it has with NATO.

In Estonia, which like Ukraine borders Russia and has a sizeable Russian minority, one political commentator remains optimistic and believes that plans to have key NATO command closer to Russia's border shows the alliance's "readiness, preparedness or resoluteness which previously was absent."

Success of Salvador gang truce: Stronger gangs

ILOPANGO, El Salvador (AP)—Marvin Gonzalez waves to shopkeepers as he enjoys a morning walk through the sunny, working-class resort of Ilopango. His cellphone rings nonstop with residents seeking his support for anything from dealing with a drunk who won't pay his bar bill to reporting an attempted rape.

Gonzalez is not a police chief, nor a politician. The 31-year-old plug of a man is the local leader of the Mara Salvatrucha, a gang formed by Central American immigrants in California and now designated by the U.S. as a transnational criminal organization.

But in Ilopango and communities across El Salvador, the Mara Salvatrucha and their arch rivals, the 18th Street Gang, are de facto rulers. A truce declared two years ago briefly tapered their bloody gang war, but the cease-fire had an unintended consequence: It gave the gangs breathing room to grow even stronger. Now, violence is on the rise again.

The murder rate has climbed since the truce unraveled in late 2013. Last month, the average was up to 10 a day compared to six during the truce.

This wasn't what was expected when gang leaders reached a truce in March 2012. Observers hailed the agreement as the start of a new era of peace for El Salvador, a model to be followed by other countries, and one that had taken cues from the peace process that, two decades earlier, ended El Salvador's 12-year civil war.

"They stopped the civil war with dialogue, so why shouldn't we talk?" said Gonzalez, speaking with a quiet sophistication. "Nobody is going to cease to belong to the gang. But this way, we can begin to rebuild the social fabric."

US launches airstrikes around Iraq's Haditha Dam

TBILISI, Georgia (AP)—The U.S. military launched airstrikes Sunday around Haditha Dam in western Iraq, targeting Islamic State insurgents there for the first time in a move to prevent the group from capturing the vital dam.

U.S. officials said that while the Anbar Province dam remains in control of the Iraqis, the U.S. offensive was an effort to beat back militants who have been trying to take over key dams across the country, including the Haditha complex.

"These strikes are being conducted to prevent the terrorists from further threatening Iraqi Security Forces in control of the dam," an official said. The dam is a major source of water and electrical power.

The officials were traveling with U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel who was in Georgia for talks with defense and other leaders. His visit comes on the heels of the two-day NATO summit in Wales.

Last month Islamic State fighters were battling to capture the Haditha Dam, which has six power generators located alongside Iraq's second-largest reservoir. But, despite their attacks, Iraqi forces there backed up by local Sunni tribes have been able to hold them off.

The group was able to take control of the Mosul Dam in northern Iraq last month, but persistent U.S. airstrikes dislodged the militants. And while fighters have been trying to take it back, the U.S. has continued to use strikes to keep them at bay.

U.S. officials have expressed concerns that militants could flood Baghdad and other large swaths of the country if they control the dams. It also would give the group control over electricity, which they could use to strengthen their control over residents.

Earlier this year, the group gained control of the Fallujah Dam on the Euphrates River and the militants used it as a weapon, opening it to flood downriver when government forces moved in on the city.

Water is a precious commodity in Iraq, a largely desert country of 32.5 million people. The decline of water levels in the Euphrates over recent years has led to electricity shortages in towns south of Baghdad, where steam-powered generators depend entirely on water levels.

Apparent shelling heard outside Ukrainian port

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Witnesses in the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol reported sustained explosions outside the city and a volunteer battalion of Ukrainian fighters says Grad rockets were fired at its positions late Saturday, little more than a day after Ukraine and Russian-backed separatist rebels signed a cease-fire following more than four months of fighting in the country's east.

The cease-fire had appeared to largely been holding during much of the day.

But late Saturday, witnesses in Mariupol told The Associated Press by telephone that heavy explosions were coming from the city's eastern outskirts, where Ukrainian troops retain defensive lines against the rebels.

The volunteer Azov Battalion said on Facebook that their positions were hit by Grad rockets, but did not give details.

Mariupol is a port city of about half a million on the coast of the Sea of Azov. Rebels recently opened a new front on the coast, leading to fears that the separatists were trying to secure a land corridor between Russia and the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in March.

Earlier Saturday, the presidents of Ukraine and Russia said the cease-fire was mostly holding, but the truce still appeared fragile as both sides of the conflict claimed violations.

A statement from Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's office said he and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed steps "for giving the cease-fire a stable character" in a telephone conversation Saturday.

But, it said, both leaders assessed the cease-fire as having been "fulfilled as a whole." A separate Kremlin statement about the call said, "There was a mutual satisfaction with the fact that the sides of the conflict were overall observing the cease-fire regime."

Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's national security council, told reporters that rebels had fired at Ukrainian forces on 10 occasions Friday night after the cease-fire took effect.

In Donetsk, the largest city controlled by the Russian-backed separatists, the night passed quietly—a rarity after several months of daily shelling in residential areas. But Alexander Zakharchenko, the top separatist leader from Donetsk, told the Russian news agency RIA Novosti that the cease-fire had been violated with two rounds of shelling in the town of Amvrosiivka, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Donetsk.

Ukraine conflict

DEC.
- **December 2013:** Thousands of protesters gather in Kiev after President Viktor Yanukovych declined to sign a European Union pact

JAN.

FEB.
- **Feb. 22, 2014:** Parliament votes to remove Yanukovych from power
- **Feb. 27:** Pro-Russian gunmen seize an airport and government buildings in the Crimea region

MARCH
- **March 1:** Russian troops seize Crimea
- **March 16:** Crimean voters back a referundum to separate from Ukraine

APRIL

MAY
- **May 25:** Petro Poroshenko is elected president, promising to re-align Ukraine with Europe

JUNE
- **July 17:** A passenger flight is shot down over separatist-controlled eastern Ukraine

JULY
- **July 29:** The U.S. and EU impose tougher sanctions on Russia

AUG.
- **Aug. 27:** Russian armored vehicles enter southern Ukraine

SEPT.
- **Sept. 5:** Russia and Ukraine agree to a cease-fire; NATO announces a rapid response plan for Eastern Europe

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Source: Chicago Tribune, Reuters

Focus

At US base, S. Korean ex-prostitutes face eviction

By JOYCE LEE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

In this July 31, 2014 photo, Jang Young-mi, 67, who worked in a military camptown for nearly two decades, poses for a photo in her small one-room home where she lives with her three dogs, her only family, at Anjeong-ri in Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

PYEONGTAEK, South Korea (AP)— More than 70 aging women live in a squalid neighborhood between the rear gate of the U.S. Army garrison here and half a dozen seedy nightclubs. Near the front gate, glossy illustrations posted in real-estate offices show the dream homes that may one day replace their one-room shacks.

They once worked as prostitutes for American soldiers in this "camptown" near Camp Humphreys, and they've stayed because they have nowhere else to go. Now, the women are being forced out of the Anjeong-ri neighborhood by developers and landlords eager to build on prime real estate around the soon-to-be-expanded garrison.

"My landlord wants me to leave, but my legs hurt, I can't walk, and South Korean real estate is too expensive," says Cho Myung-ja, 75, a former prostitute who receives monthly court eviction notices at her home, which she has rarely left over the last five years because of leg pain.

"I feel like I'm suffocating," she says.

Plagued by disease, poverty and stigma, the women have little to no support from the public or the government.

Their fate contrasts greatly with a group of Korean women forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops during World War II. Those so-called "comfort women" receive government assistance under a special law, and large crowds demanding that Japan compensate and apologize to the women attend weekly rallies outside the Japanese Embassy.

While the camptown women get social welfare, there's no similar law for special funds to help them, according to two Pyeongtaek city officials who refused to be named because of office rules. Many people in South Korea don't even know about the camptown women.

In the decades following the devastation of the 1950-53 Korean War, South Korea was a poor dictatorship deeply dependent on the U.S. military. Analysts say the South Korean government saw the women as necessary for the thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed in the South. Some of the women went to the camps voluntarily; others were brought by pimps.

In 1962, the government formalized the camptowns as "special tourism districts" with legalized prostitution. That year, some 20,000 registered prostitutes worked in nearly 100 camptowns, and many more were unregistered.

The women who became prostitutes saw few other options, but the work made them social pariahs, unable to live or work anywhere else, says Park Kyung-soo, secretary general of the National Campaign for the Eradication of Crimes against Korean Civilians, a group that tries to uncover and monitor alleged U.S. military crimes against South Koreans.

Pockets of former camptown women exist throughout South Korea. Now in their 60s, 70s and 80s, the women of Anjeong-ri mostly live alone in tiny homes, struggling to pay for food and rent on a monthly government stipend of 300,000 to 400,000 won ($300 to $400).

Activists say most of the women are in danger of losing their homes.

"I'm so worried that I can't sleep," says a camptown woman who will only give her surname, Kim, because she's ashamed of her past. The 75-year-old's landlords have told her she has a month to leave, and she looks nearly every day for a new home.

AP

In this July 31, 2014 photo, a photo of Jang Young-mi's younger self is placed on a cabinet in her small, one-room home where she lives with her three dogs, her only family, at Anjeong-ri in Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

The camptown women's predicament began when Washington and Seoul agreed in 2004 to relocate the sprawling Yongsan U.S. base, which takes up 620 acres of prime real estate in the center of wealthy Seoul, to the base in Pyeongtaek, 70 kilometers (45 miles) from the capital. The deadline, originally set for 2012, is now tentatively 2016.

At the end of the move, Camp Humphreys will have tripled in size and house more than 36,000 people, including troops, their family members and civilian staff. Investors are eyeing the Pyeongtaek land in anticipation of homes for U.S. military families and sites for businesses that will cater to the new flood of people and wealth.

Piles of rubble from demolished homes sit next to new villas. A few blocks from some of the remaining shacks, a partially built apartment building rises to the beating of hammers and whirring of drills.

Landlords eager to capitalize on rising land prices are trying to force the women out with pressure and eviction orders, and have more than quadrupled the monthly rent, from 50,000 won ($50) to 200,000 won ($200), said Woo Soon-duk, director of the Sunlit Sisters' Center, a local non-governmental organization dedicated to the women.

Many of the women want the government to take greater responsibility for their well-being and financial stability. They believe they played an important role for South Korea.

In June, 122 former camptown prostitutes sued the South Korean government. They're each seeking 10 million won (about $9,870) in compensation. A court date has not been set. Activists and lawyers for the women say police prevented prostitutes from leaving; that the government forced the women to undergo tests for sexually transmitted diseases, then locked them up if they were sick; and that officials from the U.S. military and South Korean government regularly inspected the prostitution operations.

The government saw the camptowns as a way to regulate prostitution, bring in much needed money and keep the U.S. soldiers happy. It was also worried about a rising number of sex crimes committed against South Korean women by U.S. soldiers in the 1950s and `60s, Park says.

A spokeswoman for the government's Ministry of Gender Equality and Family declined to comment until after a court reaches a decision. She wouldn't give her name, saying office rules prohibited her from being named publicly. The U.S. military wouldn't answer specific questions about the women, saying in a statement that it was aware of their case and has "zero tolerance" for prostitution.

Many of the women feel trapped.

As Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' "Rebels" plays on an old radio, Kim Soon-hee, 65, a former camptown prostitute, eats a piece of melon. Clotheslines crisscross her room, which barely fits a bed and a dresser. The air smells strongly of the mold that covers the walls.

She wants to move to a better place in the same neighborhood, but she's too poor. "In the winter, the water doesn't flow because the pipes are frozen," she says. She shares a courtyard with two other one-bedroom homes that are empty.

Jang Young-mi, 67, who was orphaned as a girl and worked in a military camptown for nearly two decades, lives with three mangy dogs. A bite from one of them left the long white scar on her hand, but she refuses to abandon the offending animal.

"Maybe because I lived for so long with American soldiers, I can't fit in with Koreans," Jang says. "Why did my life have to turn out this way?"

Health & Fitness

US eating habits improve a bit—except among poor

AP
In this April 24, 2014 file photo, a variety of healthy fruits and vegetables are displayed for sale at a market in Washington. A 12-year study released Monday, Sept. 1, 2014, shows a steady improvement in American's eating habits, but food choices remain less than ideal.

By LINDSEY TANNER
AP MEDICAL WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Americans' eating habits have improved—except among the poor, evidence of a widening wealth gap when it comes to diet. Yet even among wealthier adults, food choices remain far from ideal, a 12-year study found.

On an index of healthy eating where a perfect score is 110, U.S. adults averaged just 40 points in 1999-2000, climbing steadily to 47 points in 2009-10, the study found.

Scores for low-income adults were lower than the average and barely budged during the years studied. They averaged almost four points lower than those for high-income adults at the beginning; the difference increased to more than six points in 2009-10.

Higher scores mean greater intake of heart-healthy foods including vegetables, fruits, whole grains and healthy fats, and a high score means a low risk of obesity and chronic illnesses including heart disease, strokes and diabetes. Low scores mean people face greater chances for developing those ailments.

The widening rich-poor diet gap is disconcerting and "will have important public health implications," said study co-author Dr. Frank Hu of the Harvard School of Public Health. Diet-linked chronic diseases such as diabetes have become more common in Americans in general, and especially in the poor, he noted.

"Declining diet quality over time may actually widen the gap between the poor and the rich," Hu said.

Harvard School of Public Health researchers developed the healthy diet index used for the study. It is similar to federal dietary guidelines but features additional categories including red and processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages and alcohol.

The study authors used that index along with government estimates on trans fat intake to evaluate information in 1999-2010 national health surveys that included interviews with people about their eating habits. The results are published Monday in JAMA Internal Medicine.

Hu said the widening diet gap reflects an income gap that deepened during the recent financial crisis, which likely made healthy food less affordable for many people. Hu also noted that inexpensive highly processed foods are often widely available in low-income neighborhoods.

The overall diet improvement was largely due to decreased intake of foods containing trans fats but the disappointing results point to a need for policy changes including better nutrition education, Hu said.

In recent years the government and manufacturers have moved to phase out use of artificial trans fats in foods including processed cookies, cakes, frozen pizza and margarines. Trans fats contribute to unhealthy cholesterol levels and can increase heart disease risks. These fats are made by adding hydrogen to vegetable oil to improve texture and shelf life.

The study authors say their results are consistent with an earlier report showing that "nearly the entire U.S. population fell short of meeting federal dietary recommendations."

The federal guidelines are updated every five years and new ones will be issued next year. The current recommendations emphasize limiting intake of trans fats, sodium, processed foods and added sugars. They don't specify amounts but encourage diets high in whole grains, vegetables and fruits.

The Harvard index has a similar emphasis with some specifics; to get a top score would include eating daily more than two cups of vegetables, at least four servings of fruit and at least one ounce of nuts.

A JAMA Internal Medicine editorial says the Harvard diet index isn't perfect because it puts equal emphasis on various foods that may not contribute equally to health. Still, the study highlights a "growing chasm" that is a public health concern, the editorial says. It suggests that government efforts to close the gap with programs including food stamps may be insufficient and that limiting government benefits to cover only healthful foods might be a better strategy.

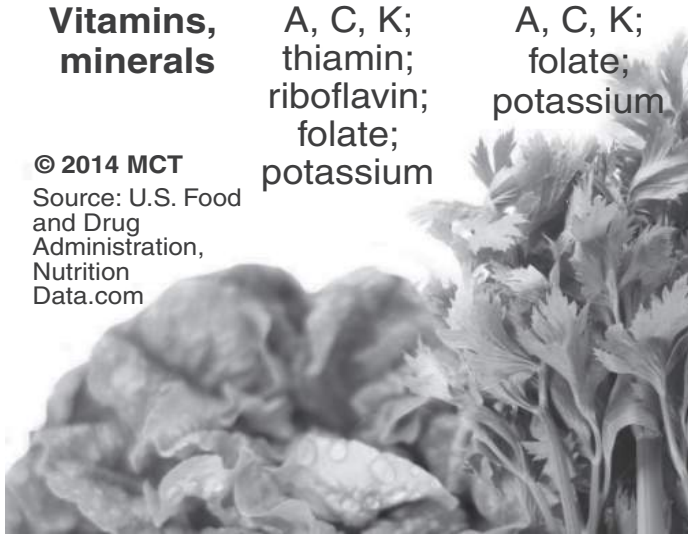
Healthy Living

Skinny veggies

If you're counting calories, lettuce and celery are two satisfying additions to your diet that provide fiber, vitamins and minerals.

	Leaf lettuce 100 g	Celery 120 g
Calories	16	18
Carbs	4 g	3 g
Vitamins, minerals	A, C, K; thiamin; riboflavin; folate; potassium	A, C, K; folate; potassium

© 2014 MCT
Source: U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Nutrition Data.com



Life & Style

This image released by Sony Pictures Classics shows Mark Ruffalo, right, and Channing Tatum in a scene from "Foxcatcher." AP

In shapes of all kinds, Mark Ruffalo hits a stride

By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Mark Ruffalo is transforming.

With a string of films, from the lauded AIDS drama "The Normal Heart" to the musical rebirth tale "Begin Again" to the upcoming wrestling drama "Foxcatcher," the man many know as the Hulk has muscled together a shape-shifting string of roles.

"You push and you work hard, you stay positive and eventually all the stars sort of align," Ruffalo said in an interview. "I feel like I'm kind of in one of those moments where everything converges at one time. It's been an interesting few years for me and kind of tough, just my inner-life. I feel like I had kind of a midlife thing going on. People close to me died. It's just been a really reflective time and a growing time, so where I'm at right now feels like, `OK, I'm coming out of the other side of that and I survived it.'"

Ruffalo has two films premiering this week at the Toronto International Film Festival: Bennett Miller's "Foxcatcher" (already a hit at Cannes) and the family drama "Infinitely Polar Bear" (already acclaimed at Sundance). The films cap a busy year for the actor, one that has already included the indie success "Begin Again," in which he plays a wayward middle-aged record executive, and the Emmy-winning HBO drama "The Normal Heart," based on Larry Kramer's play about the early years of the AIDS outbreak in New York City. He's also been shooting the "Avengers" sequel, "Age of Ultron."

Ruffalo, 46, has long been widely admired for his warm sincerity and emotional openness as an actor. He's worked steadily, mixing in character and leading parts since his breakout in Kenneth Lonergan's tender sibling drama "You Can Count on Me" (2001), including an Oscar nomination for 2010's "The Kids Are All Right." But it's been an often interrupted journey.

Shortly after "You Can Count on Me"—just as he was eagerly sought by Hollywood after 12 long years of fighting for parts—Ruffalo was diagnosed with a benign brain tumor. His face was paralyzed for a time. In 2008, his younger brother Scott was killed in Beverly Hills, a case that remains unsolved.

Ruffalo describes his recent years, which also involved struggle over balancing his work with his wife, Sunrise Coigney, and their three children, as "a roiling dis-assemblage."

"Everything was reforming," he says. "It's starting to settle."

What's striking about Ruffalo's current streak is his physical stretching, something that only begins with his Hulk morphing in "The Avengers." As a kind of stand-in for Kramer in "The Normal Heart," he plays an impassioned gay man in the early `80s. In "Foxcatcher" (due out Nov. 14), he plays Olympic wrestler Dave Schultz, a role for which he added muscle mass and grew a beard.

The transformation comes through most off the mat in Schultz's physically affectionate bearing. It's a fitting part for Ruffalo, who wrestled in high school growing up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, before dedicating himself to theater.

"I'm really getting into the physical life of a character and how it's different than me," says Ruffalo.

"To see how much he's grown and stretched himself and how many different kind of parts he's played—I'm so happy he's become so successful," says Lonergan, who essentially discovered Ruffalo, casting him in his play (currently revived on Broadway) "This Is Our Youth." "He's very, very predictably unchanged by it and still a sweet, self-effacing person with very good values, very kind-hearted and loving. And I think that all comes out in his acting."

It was Ruffalo's Terry—aimless but loveable—in "You Can Count on Me" that made writer-director Maya Forbes want him for "Infinitely Polar Bear." Ruffalo plays a manic depressive father of two girls.

"That movie, you could draw a direct line to `Infinitely Polar Bear,'" says Forbes. "It's the same kind of person who you care about deeply but is so flawed."

For Ruffalo, "You Can Count on Me" remains a touchstone, too.

"I feel like I'll never get back to that level of acting, in a way," he says. "I'm probably more polished as an actor and I've grown as an actor beyond that, but it's just so raw and honest-feeling. I look at that guy and I'm like, `That guy was good.'"

But Ruffalo has expanded in many other directions, including his persistent advocacy over fracking and clean energy. He bought 27 acres (11 hectares) in New York's Catskills when he was 28, land he has since built a house on. Now, some 14 year after "You Can Count on Me," Ruffalo has grown into a fully mature, versatile actor.

"I've really committed myself in a way I really never had," says Ruffalo. "I feel like maybe I've always held back a tiny little bit because then I could always say, well, if a movie doesn't do well, if people don't appreciate what I've done, it's `cause I didn't go all the way. I'm acutely aware that I'm getting older. I probably have another five, 10 years if I'm lucky, in front of the camera where I can still do a lot of stuff, and then I think I'll be on the downward side of it. So I want to make these last few years count."

Oprah opens 'Oprah's The Life You Want Weekend'

AP

In this Feb. 22, 2014 file photo, Oprah Winfrey speaks on stage at the 45th NAACP Image Awards in Pasadena, Calif.

ATLANTA (AP)—Oprah Winfrey and a team of guests on Saturday completed the first stop of an eight-city U.S. tour of "Oprah's The Life You Want Weekend," rocking an Atlanta arena where thousands danced, applauded and sought inspiration for transforming their lives.

Atlanta was the opening city and featured Oprah and such guests as authors Deepak Chopra and Elizabeth Gilbert, inspirational speaker Iyanla Vanzant and pastor Rob Bell. A statement released by organizers said the arena tour was intended as a catalyst for a wider movement to engage, encourage and empower women.

Winfrey spoke about identifying one's life purpose and led exercises on taking actions to reach those goals. At times there were funny reflections on life while other soul-searching moments led to crying as people considered areas in their lives they wished to change.

Thronged by thousands in a mostly female crowd, the Atlanta event that opened Friday was styled as somewhat of an intimate gathering with Oprah. She joked about how friends found it interesting that so many would attend her tour when she can't sing or dance. Her comments drew laughter from the crowd.

Organizers said that the tour is planning upcoming stops in Auburn Hills, Michigan; Washington, D.C.; Newark, New Jersey; Houston; Miami; Seattle and a final date Nov. 15 in San Jose, California.

At the end of two days in Atlanta, Oprah teared up as she thanked the audience for trusting that "this was worthy of you spending your hard-earned money to be here" and by telling the audience at the end: "Together we rise."

Dr. Joe Bianco, an emergency room doctor from Isles of Palm, South Carolina, brought his wife Melissa to the event as a birthday present. He said he thought it touched many and people would be increasingly talking about the tour on social media as it travels to other cities. Of the speakers and guests, he said: "All these people came from very little and built an empire from what they were thinking."

For Joan Rivers, victory from loss in late night

NEW YORK (AP)—Joan Rivers bombed in late night for the world to see, on an upstart network no one thought would last. In the process, she infuriated Johnny Carson, the titanic TV star who had long supported her and, 20 years before, made her an overnight star.

Or, put another way: In October 1986, Rivers made TV history as the first (and still only) woman to host a late-night broadcast talk show. She was the first face of the Fox network, headlining its first program, "The Late Show Starring Joan Rivers." She was a winner.

And through getting fired after eight months on the air, then losing her husband to suicide three months after that, Rivers displayed epic fortitude. She picked herself up, recreated herself and renewed her career.

"The beauty of Joan is that, despite the tragic loss of a friendship, of a show and of a husband, she was resilient. And after all that, she became part of pop culture once again—or more so than ever before," says Henry Bushkin, Carson's one-time legal adviser.

In retrospect, her flier in late-night TV should occupy only one, brief chapter in a long, storied career—a trailblazing run that ended Thursday, all too soon, days after Rivers, a dynamic 81, went into cardiac arrest at a doctor's office during a routine procedure. A private funeral is set for Sunday.

With "The Late Show," she took her place as one in a string of Carson's fallen challengers, who also included Joey Bishop, Merv Griffin, Dick Cavett and Alan Thicke.

"It's nobody's fault," Rivers told the audience on her last "Late Show," adding, "I've been in this business for 23 years. I'm going to be in it another 23 years."

She did that and then some. But never again on "The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson."

AP

In this Oct. 30, 1986 file photo, talk show host Joan Rivers, right, talks with guest, first lady Nancy Reagan, during her appearance on "The Late Show Starring Joan Rivers," in Los Angeles.

Rivers' debut appearance with Carson in 1965 propelled her into the national spotlight. And after dozens more appearances through the years, both as a guest and subbing for Johnny at his desk, she was named the show's first "permanent guest host" in 1983.

Then, unbeknownst to Carson, Rivers signed with Fox for a show to compete against him.

Bushkin, who then was among Carson's inner circle, recalls the day he learned about her deal.

"I got a call from a reporter—`Did you know ...?'" says Bushkin, who recently published "Johnny Carson," a book about working with the legendary host. "I didn't know, and I immediately called Johnny to let HIM know before he found out somewhere else."

What was Carson's response to the news?

"I'll edit it," says Bushkin. "He was very upset."

Despite Rivers' attempts to smooth things over with her friend and mentor, Carson, who died in 2005, never spoke to her again. And his de facto blacklist seemed to last long after his retirement. Rivers returned to "The Tonight Show" only this year, when incoming host Jimmy Fallon welcomed her back to the same NBC studio where she had made her first appearance 49 years earlier.

"I didn't think it was necessary for Johnny to get so upset or for Joan's side to handle things so badly," says Dick Cavett, a late-night veteran who said he was friends with both Rivers and Carson. Of her show, he says, "I didn't want to see her every night. But whenever I tuned in, I found her hilarious."

But in 1986, Carson commanded a vast viewership and ruled the land of late night with an iron fist. Rivers thought there was room for a new player. So did Fox.

The brash new network and its first offering, a raucous new talk show, were announced that May. Fox President Jamie Kellner declared Rivers' show would be "the cornerstone" of the network.

Today, Kellner still sees "The Late Show" as having scored its own brand of success.

"It got us moving forward with the network," he says from Santa Barbara, California, where he produces not TV but wines under the Cent'Anni label. "It was a good show to cut our teeth on, and we had potential there."

He recalls the premiere. David Lee Roth and Pee Wee Herman were guests. Rivers joined Elton John at the piano to sing "The Bitch Is Back."

"There was a lot of energy and a lot of excitement that night," Kellner says. "Who knows why it didn't work? But Joan did a great job."

Nonetheless, on a Friday in May 1987, Rivers hosted her last show, which in its brief life had failed to grab an adequate audience while behind-the-scenes conflicts raged. Two months earlier, Edgar Rosenberg, Rivers' husband and the show's executive producer, had been barred from daily duties by the network. Now Rivers was off the air.

"They raped me," Rivers told a reporter several days later.

Then, in August, Rosenberg, battling health problems and despondent over the failure of their show, committed suicide.

It would be another two years before Rivers found steady work—and when she did, she came back fabulously, with a new weekday syndicated talk show. In 1990, the show garnered her a daytime Emmy Award—and she bested powerhouses that included Phil Donahue and Oprah Winfrey.

"Everything is cyclical," Rivers told The Associated Press during a chat last year. "So I just enjoy the good times. And when the bad times come, I know it isn't forever. It's happened to me three or four times in my life. But I moved forward."

Joan Rivers funeral set for Sunday

NEW YORK (AP)—Joan Rivers' plans for an elaborate, over-the-top funeral may not be exactly what she will get, but it may be close.

The comedian detailed in her 2012 book "I Hate Everyone ... Starting With Me" that she hoped for "a huge showbiz affair with lights, cameras, action" and "Hollywood all the way." Instead of a rabbi talking, Rivers asked for "Meryl Streep crying, in five different accents" and "a wind machine so that even in the casket my hair is blowing just like Beyonce's."

The actual event Sunday may be slightly more muted. Funeral services at Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan will be private and neither the temple nor Rivers' personal publicist would give further details or divulge a guest list. It was not even known what time the funeral would start. But cameras and a media presence was very likely.

Rivers, who died Thursday at 81, was a trailblazer for all comics, but especially for women. The raspy-voiced blonde with the brash New York accent was a TV talk show host, actress, a fashion critic, and she sold a line of jewelry.

The cause of death was being investigated. Rivers had been hospitalized since Aug. 28 when she went into cardiac arrest during a routine procedure at a doctor's office. The New York state health department is investigating the circumstances.

AP

This Oct. 5, 2009 file photo shows Joan Rivers posing as she presents "Comedy Roast with Joan Rivers " during the 25th MIPCOM (International Film and Programme Market for TV, Video, Cable and Satellite) in Cannes, southeastern France.

In her book, Rivers joked that dying of natural causes was boring. "It's the grand finale, act three, the eleven o'clock number—make it count. If you're going to die, die interesting! Is there anything worse than a boring death? I think not."

Her publicist said that in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to God's Love, We Deliver; Guide Dogs for the Blind; or Our House.

Woman traumatized by sister's murder feels need for closure

DEAR ABBY: I lost my sister in a brutal murder several years ago. I was too emotionally upset to view her body or go to the trial. As a result of not having been physically connected to her passing, I have lacked closure all these years.

I believe I am finally ready to face the reality and deal with it now. As part of the process of moving on, I would like to say goodbye to her at the last place I remember her living, which is the house she spent so much time and effort on and where she was murdered. The house sold shortly after it was listed.

I can't conceive of imposing on the new owners with my own "issues," so I do not intend to knock on the door and explain who I am. I am wondering, however, about the appropriateness of leaving a basket of my sister's favorite flowers on the front porch in her memory. I feel like I need to leave something for her.

If this would be all right to do, would a note to the effect of wishing the house and its owners a new beginning be the thing to do, or not including a note at all? I'm at a loss.

LOST IN MONTANA

DEAR LOST: Please accept my sympathy for the tragic loss of your sister. I would not advise anonymously leaving flowers on the doorstep because it might upset the new homeowners. However, a signed card, with a message wishing them a lifetime of happiness in this house that has a special meaning for you because your beloved sister once lived there, might be something they would enjoy while providing closure for you.

DEAR ABBY: Our office has breakfast and lunch brought in every day for the staff, clients and visitors. They are nice lunches—steak, baked chicken, sandwiches, pizza and barbecue—and almost every day there are leftovers.

There are only five employees, and I am the only female. I earn less than half of what the men here do. I am also the only one who has teenaged sons. Most of the time when we divide up the leftovers to take home, I get more than my fair share. Sometimes it's by default -- nobody wants them. But sometimes it's by design. The boss says, "Take most of it—you have kids."

I appreciate the extra food. With an added salad or some extra vegetables, dinner is ready in short order when I get home. (Plus, it saves me hundreds of dollars each month in groceries.)

But I'm starting to feel funny about it. Is it an act of kindness, or could it have a negative impact on my status in the office? Or am I looking a gift horse in the mouth and worried about nothing?

AMBIVALENT DOWN SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR AMBIVALENT: It appears you work in an office with unusually considerate people. I can't see how accepting the leftovers would in any way compromise your status in the office.

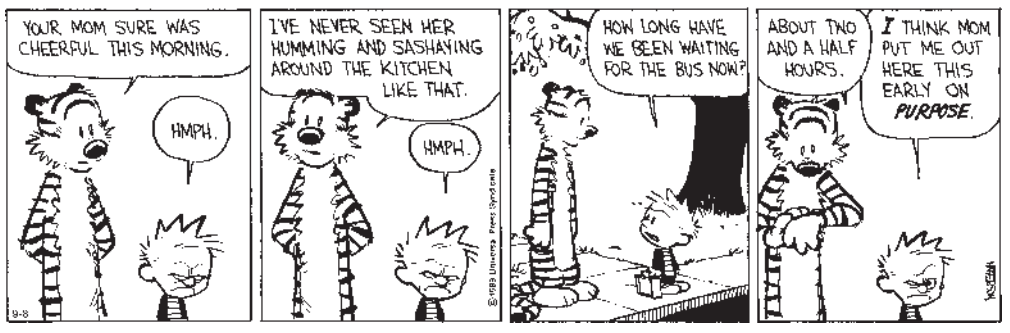
What would happen to the food if you didn't take it? Would it be wasted? As you said, this is saving you hundreds of dollars a month in groceries. I agree you may be looking a gift horse in the mouth, and that ain't hay.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


YOUR MOM SURE WAS CHEERFUL THIS MORNING.
HMPH.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER HUMMING AND SASHAYING AROUND THE KITCHEN LIKE THAT.
HMPH.
HOW LONG HAVE WE BEEN WAITING FOR THE BUS NOW?
ABOUT TWO AND A HALF HOURS.
I THINK MOM PUT ME OUT HERE THIS EARLY ON PURPOSE.

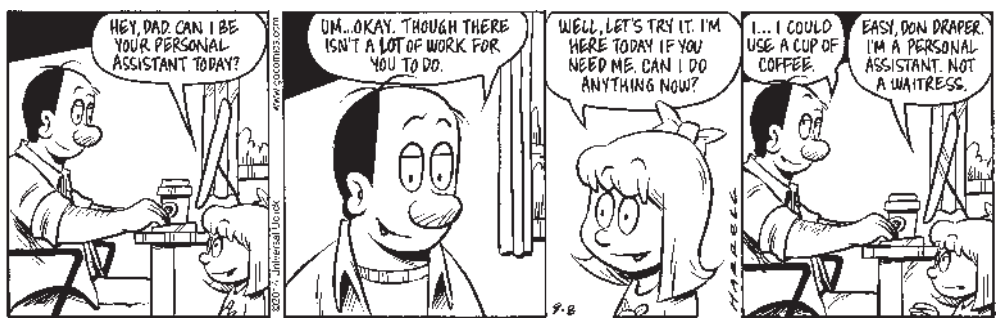
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

ARE YOU GOING TO LIE THERE ALL DAY?
THAT'S THE PLAN
YOU WON'T GET ANYTHING DONE LIKE THAT
ALSO PART OF THE PLAN
YOU'RE GOING TO DISINTEGRATE INTO A BIG PILE OF DUST AND JUST BLOW AWAY!
SOMEONE'S LEAKED THE PLAN!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HEY, DAD. CAN I BE YOUR PERSONAL ASSISTANT TODAY?
UM...OKAY. THOUGH THERE ISN'T A LOT OF WORK FOR YOU TO DO.
WELL, LET'S TRY IT. I'M HERE TODAY IF YOU NEED ME. CAN I DO ANYTHING NOW?
I... I COULD USE A CUP OF COFFEE.
EASY, DON DRAPER. I'M A PERSONAL ASSISTANT. NOT A WAITRESS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Felon's flight
4 Symbol of intrigue
7 Rum cake
11 Culture medium
13 Chicken — king
14 Computer picture
15 Presidential no
16 Obtained
17 Maintained
18 For a specific purpose
20 Unless, in law
22 Swab
24 Martial art
28 Paving material
32 "Back to the salt —"
33 Many
34 Pooch
36 De-intensify
37 Works in the mailroom
39 Legendary racehorse
41 Donkey's comment
43 Eviscerate
44 Actor McGregor
46 Hockey need
50 Skewer
53 Golf prop
55 Valhalla VIP
56 Game on horseback
57 Has the skill set
58 Speck
59 Online review site
60 Shaker —, OH
61 Caustic solution

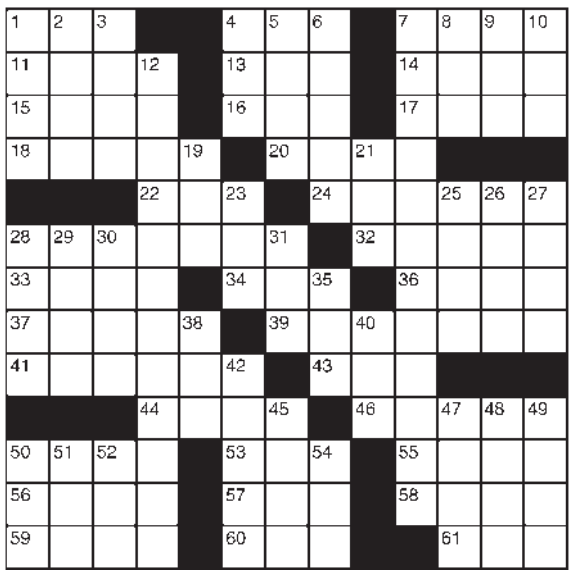
DOWN

1 Volcanic outflow
2 On in years
3 Calculus, e.g.
4 Move, as a tail
5 Musk who co-founded PayPal
6 Wax-and-dye method
7 SpongeBob's home
8 High card
9 Jazz style
10 Pismire
12 Laurence Harvey movie
19 Massachusetts cape
21 Total
23 Cushion
25 Chew away at
26 Crumbly cheese
27 Addict
28 Pulverize
29 Lotion additive
30 Apple center
31 Mid-May honoree
35 Choke
38 Witnessed
40 Greek consonants
42 Sentry's stint
45 Tidy
47 "American —"
48 Urban area
49 Elbow counterpart
50 Operative
51 "The Raven" writer
52 Under the weather
54 Type measures

Solution time: 27 mins.

D	O	W	E	L	■	C	A	M	■	J	A	R
A	N	■	M	A	■	A	■	I	■	F	M	U
D	E	N	I	M	■	B	A	L	D	W	■	N
■	■	L	H	A	M	A	S	■	H	E	N	O
I	T	S	■	S	O	N	■	P	Y	L	O	N
S	H	O	E	■	W	A	S	T	E	■	■	■
M	Y	R	T	L	E	■	C	A	R	S	O	N
■	■	■	H	A	R	P	O	■	S	H	A	Y
S	O	L	I	D	■	A	U	F	■	E	K	E
E	P	■	C	■	A	N	T	L	E	R	■	■
W	I	N	S	O	M	E	■	E	L	W	E	S
E	N	E	■	S	O	L	■	A	M	I	C	O
R	E	D	■	O	K	S	■	S	O	N	G	S

Friday's answer 9-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pink, 35; David Arquette, 43; Brooke Burke Charvet, 43; Neko Case, 44.

Happy Birthday: Emotional matters will surface. It's time to face any existing problems that are holding you back or affecting your ability to be as productive and responsible as you feel you should be. Discipline, communication and setting the record straight with anyone putting demands on you will be a good place to begin. Honesty is the best policy. Your numbers are 3, 8, 11, 22, 26, 34, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Keep the changes you make a secret for the time being. Adding your unique flair to a job you do will leave a positive imprint. Implement a healthier lifestyle in your daily routine and you will feel and look better. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Your plan will backfire if you are pushy or don't do enough research. Romance can be your ticket to a better relationship. Creative contributions to an organization you believe in will be appreciated and could lead to an interesting proposition. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Confusion regarding a relationship will lead to sensitive discussions that can leave you in a vulnerable position. Choose your words wisely; once you say something, you cannot take it back. Give other people a chance to talk. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't let unexpected changes others make cause confusion or deter you from following through with your plans. Follow your heart and your intuition and it will lead to greater stability and a brighter future. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Jump into action and make the alterations required to improve your life and professional position. Communicate with friends and relatives and look for ideal places to visit. A change will do you good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Uncertainty will prevail when dealing with personal or business partnerships. Take a step back and look at the changes going on around you. Base your next move on the way others react and the consequences that unfold. Deception is apparent. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Be careful how you handle domestic situations. Someone will try to bully you if you make an unexpected change. It's best to be secretive about your plans. A private or secret encounter will be based on assumptions and disillusionment. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a creative, innovative and imaginative approach to finding solutions. Sticking to moderate plans will be your best bet. A professional offer isn't likely to live up to its promise. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't take anyone or anything for granted. Do your best to do your share. Changes you make at home or at work will benefit you if you are honest regarding your intentions. Don't let an emotional situation lead to loss. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Try to remain balanced. Jumping from one thing to another will raise red flags with someone you are dealing with. Showing greater stability and diplomacy will be required if you want to make financial advances. Love is highlighted, but ulterior motives are present. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can expect to come into money or be offered a contract or opportunity to improve your assets. A partnership will bring about positive changes to the way you move forward professionally or personally. A false impression must not lead you astray. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Your changing opinion and attitude can work in your favor. Keeping people guessing will buy you time to get your ideas formulated and plans in place. Love is on the rise, but deception is apparent. If you feel uncertain, ask questions. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong, dependable and insightful. You are unique, intense and deliberate. *Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5	7			8				4
6		3				8		
	8		4	3	5		6	
		6	5			9		
4		7				2		1
		1			2	5		
	1		3	9	7		5	
		5				1		2
9				5			3	7

Difficulty Level ★ 9/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	1	9	4	6	5	7	2	3
5	3	7	2	9	1	4	6	8
6	4	2	8	3	7	1	5	9
9	5	6	1	2	8	3	4	7
1	8	4	7	5	3	2	9	6
7	2	3	6	4	9	8	1	5
2	9	5	3	8	4	6	7	1
4	7	8	5	1	6	9	3	2
3	6	1	9	7	2	5	8	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/05

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BOCCE Solution: 7 letters

T	G	S	S	I	M	E	A	S	U	R	E	M	A	G
U	N	R	T	A	K	I	S	S	E	L	U	O	B	D
O	I	E	E	N	M	S	T	L	U	D	A	T	E	R
K	P	T	M	E	I	Y	R	R	A	C	R	T	E	A
C	P	Y	L	A	N	O	O	T	C	U	A	C	P	O
O	U	T	N	E	N	O	P	P	O	N	A	H	Y	B
N	C	I	L	W	N	R	S	C	R	S	L	A	T	E
K	D	V	I	O	W	G	U	E	T	O	S	M	L	S
C	E	I	O	R	A	H	T	O	H	S	U	P	A	A
A	R	T	S	H	L	L	I	H	T	E	S	I	H	B
J	O	C	E	T	A	H	C	T	A	M	B	O	P	L
S	L	A	S	N	A	M	O	R	E	A	E	N	S	U
F	O	R	C	E	I	N	A	I	L	A	T	I	A	E
K	C	A	L	B	S	L	C	L	E	A	G	U	E	T
T	N	E	M	Y	O	J	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C

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Last Friday's Answer: Insurance

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Federer, Djokovic both lose in US Open semifinals

NEW YORK (AP)—Instead of Novak Djokovic vs. Roger Federer for the U.S. Open title, first-time Grand Slam finalists Kei Nishikori and Marin Cilic will vie for the championship after a pair of semifinal surprises Saturday.

First, Japan's Nishikori became the first man from Asia to reach a major singles championship match by staying fresher than Djokovic in stifling heat and winning 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4), 6-3.

Then, Croatia's Cilic used every bit of his 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) frame to deliver stinging serves and flat groundstrokes during a quick-as-can-be 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 victory over Federer.

"It's fairly simple, I think: Marin played great and I maybe didn't catch my best day," Federer said after his 1-hour, 45-minute loss. "That's pretty much it in a nutshell."

So much for No. 1-seeded Djokovic facing the No. 2-seeded Federer in a matchup between men who have combined to win 24 Grand Slam trophies. In what some will see as signaling a generational shift in tennis, Monday's final will be No. 10 Nishikori against No. 14 Cilic.

"That's going to be a sensational day for both of us," said Cilic, who at 25 is a year older than Nishikori.

For the first time in nearly a decade—since Marat Safin beat Lleyton Hewitt at the Australian Open in January 2005—a major final will be contested without at least one of Federer, Djokovic or Rafael Nadal, who didn't attempt to defend his 2013 U.S. Open title because of a right wrist injury.

That trio won 34 of the past 38 Grand Slam trophies, including two months ago at Wimbledon, when Djokovic edged Federer in a five-set final.

"It's exciting for the game to have different faces from time to time," the 33-year-old Federer said. "It's definitely refreshing to some extent. It's big for Croatia; it's big for Japan."

AP

Kei Nishikori, of Japan, reacts after defeating Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, in the semifinals of the 2014 U.S. Open tennis tournament, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014, in New York.

Cilic, forced to sit out last year's U.S. Open during a doping suspension, is the first man from Croatia to get this far at a major since his coach, Goran Ivanisevic, won Wimbledon in 2001.

That's nothing compared to Japan's wait.

As it is, Nishikori was the first man from his country to reach a Grand Slam semifinal since 1933.

"Very happy to make history," said Nishikori, who moved to Florida at age 14.

He weaved his way through a pair of five-setters totaling more than 8 1/2 hours while No. 3 Stan Wawrinka and No. 5 Milos Raonic, yet appeared much more lively as the temperature neared 100 degrees (37 Celsius) than Djokovic, a guy widely considered as fit as they come.

"Just wasn't myself," Djokovic said.

Especially in the pivotal third-set tiebreaker. He missed a pair of backhands. He double-faulted. He missed a forehand, and another to end the set, then smacked a ball in anger. Up in the stands, Nishikori's coach, 1989 French Open champion Michael Chang, rose to his feet and pumped his fists.

Making Nishikori's performance all the more impressive is that as recently as a few weeks ago, he was swinging a racket while seated in practice, unable to run because he had a cyst removed from the bottom of his right foot in August.

"I didn't even know if I should come to New York," he said, "so I wasn't expecting nothing, actually."

Chang refused to let Nishikori think that way.

"He might not have prepared the best way he knows how. But just because you haven't done that doesn't mean that you don't give yourself the opportunity to come out and play," Chang said. "That's why I told him, `You get past the first round, the second round, anything can happen.'"

This unforeseeable U.S. Open final shows that's true.

In the quarterfinals Thursday night, Federer dropped the first two sets against Gael Monfils and faced two match points, but escaped.

There would be no such comeback against Cilic, who worked to improve his game while sidelined after testing positive for a stimulant in May 2013. He said he ingested the substance accidentally via a glucose tablet; the International Tennis Federation sought a two-year ban but it eventually was reduced to four months.

Cilic had only played one previous major semifinal, at the 2010 Australian Open, while this was Federer's 36th. And Cilic came into the day with an 0-5 head-to-head record.

But this one went the other way. Wasn't even close.

Cilic hit serves at up to 132 mph (213 kph) and finished with 13 aces, including three in the final game. That he would serve effectively was no surprise. What truly stood out, though, was the way Cilic managed to hang with Federer in exchanges from the baseline.

"He played," Federer said, "with no fear."

Seahawks dominate Green Bay 36-16 to begin 2014

SEATTLE (AP)—Russell Wilson made sure everyone knew Percy Harvin was healthy. Marshawn Lynch bullied his way to another 100-yard rushing performance.

And Richard Sherman? He was just bored.

The Super Bowl champion Seattle Seahawks opened the same way they finished last season, with a blowout victory.

"We'll always find something that we can do better," Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner said. "That's why we're so good." Lynch ran for 110 yards and two touchdowns, Harvin had 100 combined yards rushing and receiving, and the Seahawks dominated Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers in a 36-16 victory to kick off the regular season Thursday night.

The memories of last season were revisited, with the championship banner unveiled celebrating Seattle's first title. But the ceremony was brief, a nod to putting last season behind and beginning the process of trying to become the first team in a decade to repeat.

Their effort against the Packers—a popular pick to contend in the NFC—will only reinforce the belief Seattle is still the favorite.

Wilson was outstanding in the first half, including a 33-yard touchdown pass to Ricardo Lockette. Harvin got touches as a receiver, running back and returner. He was used all over the field in different formations after never being fully healthy in his first season with Seattle.

Wilson finished 19 of 28 for 191 yards, while Lynch was at his best. Pete Carroll said earlier this week that Lynch appeared in the best shape of his career, and it showed. Lynch averaged 5.5 yards per carry and topped 100 yards for the 20th time in the regular season since joining the Seahawks in 2010.

Lynch, who ran for 1,257 yards and 12 touchdowns last season, barreled through a trio of Packers for a TD with 3:41 left before halftime to give the Seahawks a 17-10 lead and added a second scoring run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

"Obviously, we were the more physical team today, offensively and defensively. I saw supposedly some of the best players in the league not want to tackle Marshawn Lynch," Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett said. "Of course, nobody is going to say nothing about that, but I seen a lot of guys whiff on tackles that should have been 2-yard gains and they're supposed to be the best."

Seattle had 207 yards rushing as a team and won for the 18th time in its last 20 regular- season home games. Harvin finished with 11 offensive touches, including four rushes for 41 yards.

"If we already peaked this game we're going to be in trouble," Harvin said. "I hope we can just take this game and build on it."

Rodgers was 23 of 33 for 189 yards and was isolated to one side of the field. He looked almost exclusively for Jordy Nelson matched up against Byron Maxwell and never threw in Sherman's direction. Nelson finished with nine receptions, but Maxwell came up with a third-quarter interception on a pass that deflected off Nelson's hands.

The most action for Sherman came in the first half when he accidently blocked Davon House into Earl Thomas on a punt return causing a fumble recovered by the Packers.

But Seattle's defenders did their part. They sacked Rodgers three times, taking advantage of a knee injury suffered by right tackle Bryan Bulaga in the second quarter. His replacement, Derek Sherrod, gave up a fourth-down sack to Cliff Avril to end one drive inside Seattle territory.

Following a Seattle punt, Sherrod was beaten by Michael Bennett on Green Bay's next offensive snap. Rodgers was stripped and Sherrod fell on the fumble in the end zone for a safety and a 22-10 lead.

"I think that you get wake up calls and then you get drill sergeant kick you out the bed calls and I think we just got kicked out the bed onto a cement floor, and it hurt," Green Bay defensive lineman Mike Daniels said.

Eddie Lacy was mostly a nonfactor with 34 yards rushing on 12 carries and left in the fourth quarter with a concussion. And despite holding the Packers to 255 total yards—the third fewest by Green Bay since the start of 2012—Sherman felt the job wasn't up to standard.

"It wasn't dominant at all. We have a lot of things to clean up," Sherman said. "We missed some opportunities on some turnovers. We missed some tackles on key drives we could have stopped we had some key penalties. These are all things we need to clean up because we have a really high standard."

Lynch's second TD put Seattle up 29-10. Rodgers threw a 3-yard scoring pass to Randall Cobb in the fourth quarter, but Wilson closed out the victory with a 13-play drive that ate up 7 minutes and was capped by a 15-yard TD pass to Derrick Coleman on fourth down with 2:31 left.

McIlroy shares lead at BMW Championship

BMW Championship

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado (AP)—Rory McIlroy ran out of par saves late in the opening round at the BMW Championship and had to settle for a 3-under 67 on Thursday, good enough to share the lead with Jordan Spieth and Gary Woodland.

Cherry Hills, one of the shortest courses on the PGA Tour when factoring in the mile-high air, held up just fine.

"It's tricky. It really is," top-ranked McIlroy said. "The altitude, we've had a couple of days to adjust to that. It's fine. But these greens have gotten so much firmer over the last 24 hours. I think that's what is giving the guys just a little trouble out there."

U.S. Open champion Martin Kaymer and Sergio Garcia were among those at 68, while Justin Rose wasted a fast start and was at 69. Phil Mickelson, who won the U.S. Amateur at Cherry Hills in 1990, opened with a 70.

"It reminds me of Augusta in the early '90s, where the course played very short but the greens were the defense," Mickelson said. "And the greens were very fast, and very firm, and it was very difficult to get the ball close."

McIlroy ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn to reach 5-under par. He appeared to escape trouble with one of his best par saves of the year, hitting a lofted pitch from the side of a mound that landed just on the green and rode the slope to about 8 feet. He avoided a three-putt on the next hole by making a 7-foot par save.

AP

Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, follows his shot off the second tee in the third round of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Cherry Hills Village, Colo., Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014.

But that was the end of that.

McIlroy failed to save par from the bunker on the next two holes.

Spieth also ran into his share of trouble, though he countered with six birdies and figured out the nasty combination of soft turf in front of the greens and putting surfaces that felt like they had been mixed with cement.

He blasted driver through the fairway on the 382-yard seventh hole because it offered the best angle into the green. The trick was playing the wedge. It came out low and running, something one would expect to see more in links golf, and it had just enough speed to crawl onto the green and settle a few feet away.

"Today, I had a good short game," Spieth said with a smile, a strong comment from a guy with one of the best short games in golf.

Woodland made only one mistake when he three-putted from about 50 feet on the fourth hole. He birdied both the par 5s, missing an 8-foot eagle attempt on No. 11, and was equally pleased with a par on the 18th hole, which features a severely canted fairway toward the lake and an uphill approach. Woodland hit 2-iron off the tee and a 6-iron onto the green.

"Probably the firmest golf course we have ever seen," Woodland said. "The greens, they're concrete out there. So if we don't get any rain, it can be pretty interesting by the weekend."

Just his luck, rain arrived late in the day and suspended the first round with nine players still on the course. They will return Friday morning before starting the second round. The field is only 69 players and there is no cut.

Among those who did not finish was Henrik Stenson, who missed a 4-foot par save on his 17th hole — the par-3 eighth — and fell to 2 under. Jerry Kelly, whose eagle on the final hole at the TPC Boston on Monday enabled him to be the last of the top 70 qualifiers for the BMW Championship, was at 1 under with two holes to play.

The top 30 in the FedEx Cup after this week advance to the Tour Championship in Atlanta, where everyone will have a mathematical shot at the $10 million bonus.

McIlroy has proven himself plenty this year, winning the British Open and the PGA Championship, with a World Golf Championship in between. He is No. 2 in the FedEx Cup standings behind Deutsche Bank Championship winner Chris Kirk, though he is assured a clear shot at winning the cup.

Boy Wonder has been saying during these FedEx Cup playoffs that his big year deserves a big finish.

He was hoping for a big round, and almost had one.

"The scoring isn't that good out there," he said. "Not that it's not good, it's just not that low. It's tricky. It's playing a little bit like a U.S. Open. I wouldn't say it's quite as difficult as that, but it's thick rough, especially around the greens, and firm greens. That's what they need to keep the scoring the way it is."

McIlroy wasn't the only player to reference a major championship.

"It felt close to it," Garcia said. "Obviously, it's not a long course with the altitude and everything, but a lot of the shots had to be hit perfectly to be able to hit it close to the pin."

Susac, Giants beat Price, Tigers, 5-4

DETROIT (AP)—Andrew Susac hit a two-run double in San Francisco's four-run first against David Price as the Giants beat the Detroit Tigers 5-4 in Major League Baseball on Saturday.

Buster Posey had a solo homer among his three hits as San Francisco won for the eighth time in nine games against Detroit, including a sweep of the 2012 World Series. Madison Bumgarner pitched six innings for his fourth consecutive win, giving him a career-high 17 on the year.

Miguel Cabrera homered twice for Detroit, which has dropped three of four. Victor Martinez hit a solo drive in the third for his career-best 30th homer.

Price (13-11) settled down after the rough start, striking out 11 in 8 2-3 innings. But the lefthander, who was acquired from Tampa Bay in a July 31 trade, dropped to 1-3 with a 4.91 ERA in his last four starts.

Bumgarner (17-9), who won Game 2 two years ago, allowed three runs and 10 hits. Santiago Casilla pitched the ninth for his 15th save.

Cardinals 5, Brewers 3

In Milwaukee, Matt Adams and Oscar Taveras homered as the Cardinals opened a four-game lead in the National League Central division.

Lance Lynn (15-8) pitched six effective innings as St. Louis won for the seventh time in its last eight games. Trevor Rosenthal got three outs for his 43rd save in 48 chances.

Yankees 6, Royals 2

In New York, Brandon McCarthy won for the second time in six starts, and the Yankees feasted on Kansas City's bullpen after Royals starter Danny Duffy left because of an injury following his first pitch.

A night after a 1-0 loss in the series opener dropped them 4½ games back for the American League's second playoff wild card, the weak-hitting Yankees scored as many as six runs for the first time since Aug. 29.

McCarthy (6-4) allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2-3 innings.

Angels 8, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Albert Pujols hit a tiebreaking two-run double in the ninth inning for his 2,500th hit, leading Angels to their third straight win over the Twins.

Pujols also had a solo homer in the third against Phil Hughes for a 3-2 lead, scoring his 1,500th run on his 25th home run this season.

Athletics 4, Astros 3

In Oakland, California, Jed Lowrie hit a game-ending RBI single in Oakland's three-run ninth inning.

Lowrie, Josh Reddick and Coco Crisp had two hits apiece as Oakland ended a three-game losing streak. The Athletics were six games back of the AL West-leading Angels coming into the day, but were also on top of the playoff wild-card standings.

Indians 3, White Sox 1

In Cleveland, Corey Kluber pitched a five-hitter for Cleveland, and rookie Jose Ramirez hit a go-ahead triple in a two-run seventh inning.

Kluber (14-9) allowed an unearned run, struck out eight and walked none in his third complete game of the season. He had been 0-3 in four starts since winning at the New York Yankees on Aug. 9.

Pirates 5, Cubs 3, 11 innings, suspended game Pirates 5, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Francisco Liriano struck out nine in six dominant innings, helping the Pirates get their second win of the day at Wrigley Field.

Pittsburgh also won in 11 innings in the resumption of the suspended series opener. Josh Harrison hit a tiebreaking RBI single and finished with four hits. He also hurt his left ankle, but said later that he was fine.

Andrew McCutchen had three hits in the second game for the Pirates, who improved to 11-4 against the Cubs this year. Jordy Mercer hit an RBI single in the first and a leadoff homer in the ninth.

Red sox 4, Blue Jays 3

In Boston, Clay Buchholz pitched into the seventh inning as the Red Sox hurt the Blue Jays' fading playoff hopes.

The Red Sox scored single runs in the first four innings off J.A. Happ (9-9). Dustin Pedroia's run-scoring grounder tied it in the first and Boston moved ahead on Will Middlebrooks' RBI single in the second.

Braves 4, Marlins 3, 10 innings

In Miami, Evan Gattis hit a leadoff homer in the 10th inning to send the Braves to the win.

Gattis drove the first pitch from Bryan Morris (7-1) to the top of the wall in center. Gattis motored into third with a triple when the ball was originally ruled in play, but a replay review showed it hit the wall above a yellow line for his 22nd homer.

Phillies 3, Nationals 1

In Washington, A.J. Burnett pitched seven innings and Ryan Howard had two RBIs as the last-place Phillies secured their first winning season against the Nationals since 2010.

Dominic Brown homered for the Phillies, who have won their last five games against the NL East leaders and hold a 10-8 advantage in the series that ends Sunday.

Rays 3, Orioles 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Yunel Escobar scored on Nick Hundley's passed ball with two outs in ninth inning, sending the Rays to the win.

Escobar reached first on a throwing error by shortstop Ryan Flaherty, took second on Kevin Kiermaier's sacrifice and advanced to third on Curt Casali's flyout.

Reds 2, Mets 1

In Cincinnati, Todd Frazier and Chris Heisey homered for Cincinnati, and Johnny Cueto went seven innings.

Frazier's second homer in two days tied it in the sixth against Dillon Gee (6-7). Heisey hit for Cueto with two outs in the seventh and connected for his eighth homer.

Aroldis Chapman relieved and got the last four outs for his 30th save in 32 chances, escaping a threat in the ninth with the help of a replay.

Rockies 7, Padres 6

In Denver, Drew Stubbs had a tiebreaking RBI single in the 12th inning to lift Colorado past San Diego.

D.J. LeMahieu doubled off Jesse Hahn (7-4) to start the 12th and Charlie Culberson sacrificed him to third. Hahn then intentionally walked Charlie Blackmon and San Diego manager Bud Black aligned three defenders between third and second base in hopes of cutting off any grounder and getting the runner at the plate.

Dodgers 5, Diamondbacks 2

In Los Angeles, Dee Gordon hit a go-ahead RBI single in the eighth inning and Adrian Gonzalez homered to lead the Dodgers to victory.

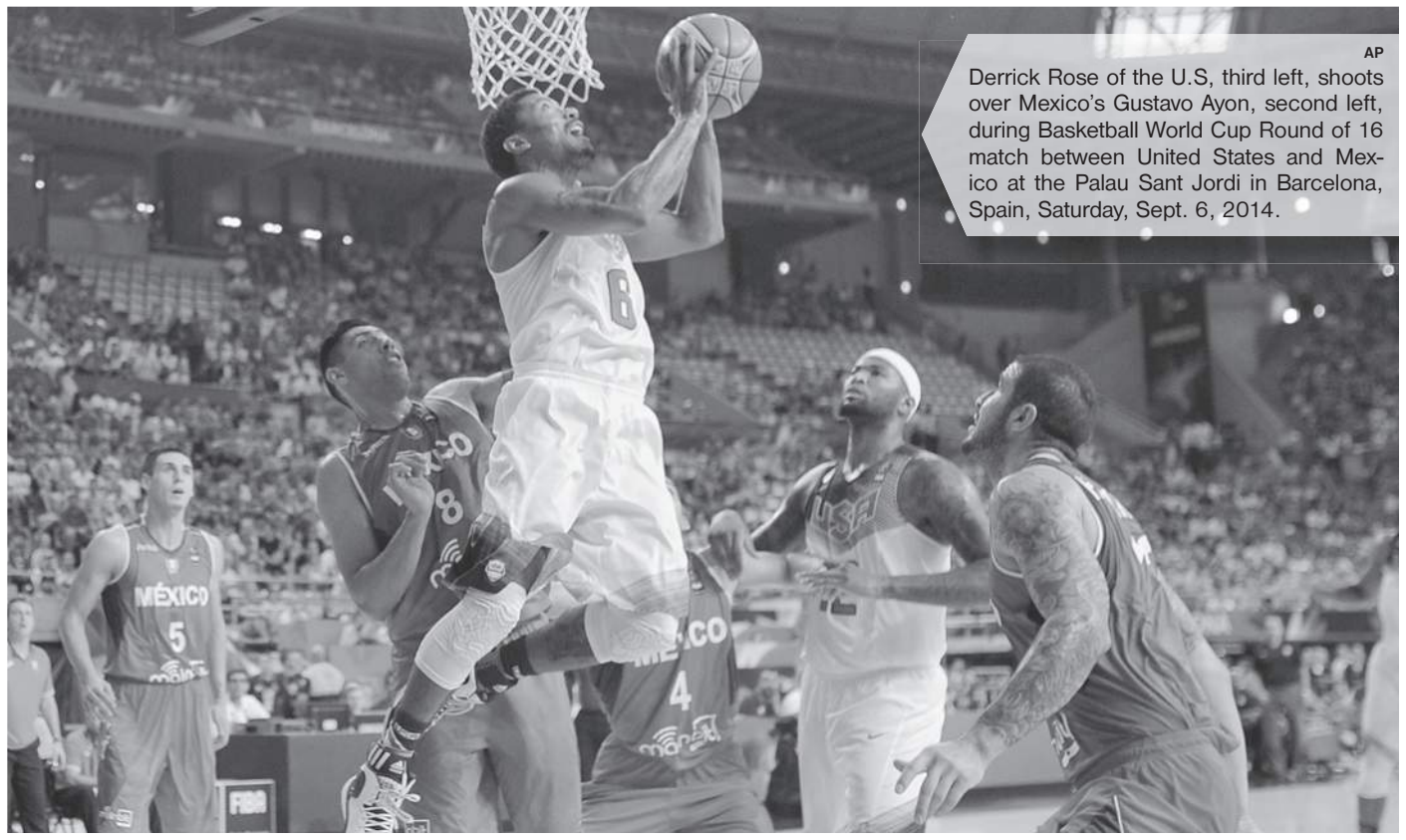
The Dodgers' 14th victory in 18 meetings with the Diamondbacks kept the defending NL West champions two games ahead of San Francisco in the division standings after the Giants won 5-4 at Detroit.

Mariners 4, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Seager had three hits, including a home run, as the Mariners moved 1 1/2 games ahead of Detroit for the AL's second playoff wild card.

Seager hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning to tie the score at 2-all, and singled and scored in the Mariners' two-run eighth against Neal Cotts (2-9). Seager is hitting .362 with five home runs and 16 RBIs in 69 at-bats against the Rangers this season.

Curry's 6 3s send US to basketball worlds quarters



AP

Derrick Rose of the U.S, third left, shoots over Mexico's Gustavo Ayon, second left, during Basketball World Cup Round of 16 match between United States and Mexico at the Palau Sant Jordi in Barcelona, Spain, Saturday, Sept. 6, 2014.

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)— They have a gold medal to chase and a golden U.S. basketball legacy to protect, so the Americans knew they had to bring their best to Barcelona.

Stephen Curry sure did.

Curry made six 3-pointers and scored 20 points Saturday, leading the U.S. national team into the quarterfinals of the Basketball World Cup with an 86-63 victory over Mexico. The Americans next play on Tuesday against Slovenia, which lost to the U.S. 101-71 in an exhibition game Aug. 26 in the Canary Islands.

Curry was 7 of 10 from the field and 6 of 9 behind the arc, further evidence that one of the game's best shooters was moving past his dismal start to the tournament. Golden State Warriors teammate Klay Thompson added 15 points.

Curry said the U.S. team is improving with every game, just as a similarly young American squad did four years ago in winning gold in Turkey.

"In 2010, we did that," Curry said. "Every game was fun, it was energetic, just enjoying the ride and I think now we're here in Barcelona and got our first medal game under our belt, we got the wheels going and excited to get back to work on Tuesday."

Curry was just 4 for 17 overall in his first two games in Bilbao, though he shot better over the next three. He saved his best performance for Barcelona, where the Americans are used to them.

He made consecutive 3s early in the third quarter when the Americans put away the game, the second coming as he was knocked down by a defender who was lucky not to be called for a foul.

Gustavo Ayon scored 25 points for Mexico, which won last year's FIBA Americas tournament to qualify and then advanced as the No. 4 team out of Group D despite a 2-3 record.

The 6-foot-9 Ayon played for the Atlanta Hawks last season but his season was cut short by right shoulder surgery in February. He is a free agent and showed enough footwork and shooting touch to warrant a look from someone else.

"I'm very happy about my own participation in this game but I know I have to keep working as a team, as a player," Ayon said through an interpreter.

He couldn't prevent what ended up as the usual American romp in Barcelona, where the Dream Team crushed the competition in the 1992 Olympics.

The Americans averaged 117.3 points and won by 43.8 points a game then at nearby Badalona, but expect things to be a little more difficult at the Palau Sant Jordi, where they would play through the semifinals before advancing to Madrid for the Sept. 14 championship game.

"They won, so we just have to do the same thing," center Anthony Davis.

Davis scored only four points and power forward Kenneth Faried had eight after they were the Americans' dominant players in the first round. The U.S. compensated by making 13 3-pointers, with their top three scorers all perimeter players.

"For a few games I think our perimeter guys were just really trying to get Anthony off because we had not looked for him and the pendulum went too far, where we're looking at that too much," U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "And today it's swinging more into the middle, and if we get that balance then we'll be a very good—we think we are a good offensive team—but we can be an outstanding offensive team if we get that balance."

The U.S., which had some poor starts in previous games, surged to a 13-2 lead. After Mexico answered with seven straight, the Americans pushed the score to 23-13 after one period. It stayed in double digits for nearly the entire second quarter, though Ayon had a 10-point period to keep the Americans from getting too far ahead, and it was 42-27 at halftime.

BLUE HAUS

From Page 28

Santos led the pivotal run, scoring 7 points in that spurt.

Santos also found his target early, drilling 8 in Blue Haus' dominant showing in the first period. Four other Blue Haus players contributed at least 5 points each in the first canto, which ended with the team enjoying a 33-14 advantage.

Blue Haus hang on to the double-digit spread in the second, 57-47, as it continued to hit several outside shots. A buzzer-beating layup from Angelo Fernando cut the deficit to single digit in the third, 65-73, but Maplas failed to carry its momentum in the fourth to get the boot in the nine-team field.

With Blue Haus getting the last playoff seat, it forced a playoff game against No. 5-ranked Island Floral. The Blue Haus-Island Floral tiff was played in the first game last night, while Saipan Ice and Gliders collided in the second playoff match. Results of neither match were unavailable at press time. Winners of the two first round matches will advance to the quarterfinals and battle the Destroyers and TBK Mechanics for the last two semis tickets. Hite Jinro and San Antonio took the two automatic semis spots after finishing in the Top 2 in the regular season.

TBK placed third with its 4-4 record, beating the Destroyers, Gliders, and Island Floral in the tiebreak. The Destroyers had the same record and clinched a quarterfinals berth after routing the Gliders, 98-78, last Friday.

FRIDAY

First Game

Island Floral 99 – Norita 24, Bisana 24, Tabora 14, Tobias 12, Lizama 10, Capalad 9.

Blue Haus 81 – Talania 19, Barrios 18, Aquino 17, B. Camacho 15, Hernandez 8, Olivos 4.

Scoring by quarters: 23-14, 53-38, 74-57, 99-81.

Second Game

Destroyers 98 – Duenas 38, Esdrelon 28, Diaz 8, Fernandez 6, Santos 4, Gontar 4, Tengco 2, Corotan 2.

Gliders 78 – Estolas 19, J. Villanueva 15, Je. Villanueva 13, Palacios 13, Cadiang 8, Saturno 6, Cabrera 5.

Scoring by quarters: 19-14, 38-39, 65-53, 98-78.

SATURDAY

Blue Haus 106 – Barrios 28, Santos 25, Moises 15, E. Camacho 14, Talania 12, B. Camacho 7, Hernandez 2.

Maplas 88 – Fernando 32, Mendoza 18, M. Usi 13, R. Usi 9, Achas 8, Odicta 6, Aniciete 2.

Scoring by quarters: 33-14, 57-45, 73-65, 106-88.

PIC

From Page 28

alternated in draining timely baskets for Fiesta the entire match to frustrate Kanoa all night.

Pagarao and Ong tallied 20 and 19 points, while Jarrett Matsotaro and Elmer Esdrelon made 14 and 11 markers, respectively.

Matt Duenas and Dindo Pablo combined for 44 points in Kanoa's losing cause while Fred Litulumar chipped in 10.

The road to the championship, however, is rather confusing as PIC, which is undefeated in the playoffs, will face Fiesta with the former needing a win to earn a finals ticket. A loss by PIC will force a knockout match with Fiesta.

World Resort, which absorbed its first loss in the playoff round, will face Shirley's-Century Hotel with the winner automatically earning a finals berth.

First Game

PIC 87 – Aranda 22, Alegre 19, Quitugua 14, Abuy 12, Babauta 11, Barbo 3, Buchun 2, Del Rosario 2, Remillosa 2.

World Resort 84 – Vinas 20, Lewis 18, Danas 17, Manglona 16, Bernardo 8, Espiritu 3, Valle 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-23, 45-46, 70-60, 87-84.

Second Game

Fiesta Resort 81 – Pagarao 20, Ong 19, Matsutaro 14, Esdrelon 11, Macoto 6, Quizon 4, Alokoa 3, Galag 2.

Kanoa Resort 77 – Duenas 22, Pablo 22, Litulumar 10, Armia 8, Barba 7, Usi 4, Lumauwag 2, Villalursa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-12, 40-34, 64-55, 81-77.

JERICHO

From Page 28

timidating look, but I know he's a good guy. He is just a disciplinarian, wants his players to follow his system and the plays that they practice."

Cruz added that he is excited to play in his first PBA game under Guiao where he is hopeful to make a good impression. "I'm ready to learn and correct my mistakes. Or else [Guiao] will be shouting at me the whole game, hahaha!"

Guiao, who is also congressman of Pampanga province's first district in the House of Representatives, has four PBA titles—three with Red Bull and one with Rain or Shine—under his belt as he helped turn franchises with no big name players into champions.

"I'm ready to take on the challenge. I can't wait to play and I'm excited. But I still feel rookie jitters since this will definitely be a whole new ballgame for me. Far from the lights of the Garapan open basketball court where my love for basketball started," said Cruz.

Cruz was drafted ninth overall in the first round by Rain or Shine in last month's PBA annual rookie draft to join fellow Philippine team member Kevin Alas under the Elasto Painters' franchise.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	82	59	.582	—
New York	73	67	.521	8½
Toronto	72	69	.511	10
Tampa Bay	69	74	.483	14
Boston	63	79	.444	19½

Central Division

Kansas City	78	62	.557	—
Detroit	77	65	.542	2
Cleveland	73	67	.521	5
Chicago	63	78	.447	15½
Minnesota	61	81	.430	18

West Division

Los Angeles	86	55	.610	—
Oakland	80	61	.567	6
Seattle	78	63	.553	8
Houston	62	80	.437	24½
Texas	53	89	.373	33½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	79	61	.564	—
Atlanta	74	68	.521	6
Miami	68	72	.486	11
New York	67	75	.472	13
Philadelphia	66	75	.468	13½

Central Division

St. Louis	78	64	.549	—
Milwaukee	74	68	.521	4
Pittsburgh	73	68	.518	4½
Cincinnati	67	75	.472	11
Chicago	64	78	.451	14

West Division

Los Angeles	80	62	.563	—
San Francisco	78	64	.549	2
San Diego	66	75	.468	13½
Arizona	59	83	.415	21
Colorado	58	84	.408	22

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado (AP) — Scores Saturday in the BMW Championship, a US PGA Tour event at the par-70, 7,352-yard Cherry Hills Country Club course:

THIRD ROUND

Billy Horschel	68-66-63—197
Ryan Palmer	69-64-67—200
Martin Kaymer	68-70-64—202
Bubba Watson	70-66-66—202
Rickie Fowler	71-66-66—203
Sergio Garcia	68-64-72—204
Jim Furyk	70-68-67—205
Jordan Spieth	67-70-68—205
Graham DeLaet	68-68-69—205
J.B. Holmes	71-68-67—206
Morgan Hoffmann	72-72-62—206
Chesson Hadley	68-70-68—206
Adam Scott	71-66-69—206
Rory McIlroy	67-67-72—206
Bill Haas	72-68-67—207
Hideki Matsuyama	69-67-71—207
Seung-Yul Noh	70-71-67—208
Ben Crane	70-70-68—208
Gary Woodland	67-73-68—208
Jimmy Walker	72-67-69—208
Ernie Els	70-69-69—208
Charl Schwartzel	72-66-70—208
Harris English	71-71-67—209
Camilo Villegas	70-71-68—209
Angel Cabrera	71-72-66—209
George McNeill	71-69-69—209
John Senden	73-66-70—209
Henrik Stenson	68-69-72—209
Kevin Chappell	68-72-70—210
Justin Rose	69-71-70—210
Tim Clark	71-69-70—210
Jerry Kelly	71-73-66—210
Freddie Jacobson	73-71-66—210
Chris Stroud	69-73-69—211
Geoff Ogilvy	73-69-69—211
Cameron Tringale	70-73-68—211
Brian Stuard	71-69-71—211
Carl Pettersson	73-70-68—211
Stuart Appleby	71-71-70—212
Chris Kirk	71-70-71—212
Matt Every	68-73-71—212
Charles Howell III	69-72-71—212
Marc Leishman	74-69-69—212
Kevin Na	74-69-69—212
K.J. Choi	69-74-69—212
Brendon Todd	73-67-72—212
Zach Johnson	71-71-71—213
Kevin Stadler	74-69-70—213
Daniel Summerhays	75-68-71—214
Matt Kuchar	71-73-70—214
Graeme McDowell	73-72-69—214
Webb Simpson	73-72-69—214
Russell Knox	74-69-72—215
Brian Harman	73-71-71—215
Charley Hoffman	72-71-73—216
Erik Compton	69-74-73—216
Hunter Mahan	75-70-71—216
Matt Jones	73-73-70—216
Will MacKenzie	75-72-69—216
William McGirt	71-71-76—218
Russell Henley	68-74-76—218
Patrick Reed	77-70-71—218

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ghasias Brothers boots out Bandits, makes playoff

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ghasias Brothers punched the last semis ticket in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League after nipping the Bandits, 79-78, at the resumption of their knockout game last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Freddie Pelisamen led the close victory, exploding for 54 points, including seven of Ghasias Brothers' last 14 points in the final 7:41 of the game first played last Friday, but was rained-out with the match tied at 65-all.

When the game resumed, the Bandits went on a 7-0 run, to boost its semis bid, but Pelisamen came to Ghasias Brothers' rescue, while Mike Olaitiman, Randy Pelisamen, and Ben Pelisamen canned one field goal apiece to help their team survive the rubber match. Ben Pelisamen drilled a triple to give Ghasias Brothers' its last basket and the lead and the Bandits failed to counter and steal the win when McLain Achas muffed two free throws in the closing seconds of the match. With the victory, Ghasias Brothers will play top-ranked and defending champion Ali'i in the second semifinals game tonight. Flip Top and SSFM dueled in the first semis match last Saturday and results of the game will be reported in *Saipan Tribune*'s Tuesday edition. The semis round has a round-robin format with the Top 2 teams advancing to the finals.

The Ghasias Brothers-Bandits showdown for the fourth and last semis seat was a seesaw battle with the former moving ahead after the first period, 27-18. As expected, Freddie Pelisamen anchored Ghasias Brothers' attack in the opening canto, as he dropped 17 points. He traded baskets with Edmark Mendoza, who kept the Bandits in the game in the first frame, scoring 10 points.

Mendoza kept his hot shooting in the second quarter and drew enough support from his teammates, as the Bandits fought back to steal the upper hand at the break, 46-42. Pelisamen also remained on target making all but two of Ghasias Brothers' points, but the Bandits nearly doubled its foe's output in the second canto, 28-15, to grab the driver' seat, entering the third.

In the third period, Mendoza was held to two field goals, but Bryle Alegre stepped in with his seven markers, helping the Bandits keep the lead, 63-57, after 30 minutes of play. A quick 8-2 start from Ghasias Brothers in the first two minutes and change of the fourth forced a standoff before rain halted play with the Bandits having the possession. It rained for several minutes, forcing organizers to reschedule the game the following day.

In last Saturday's continuation, the Bandits drew baskets from four different players to move Ghasias Brothers on the brink of elimination before Freddie Pelisamen took matters into his own hands and sent the Bandits packing.

Ghasias Brothers 79 – F. Pelisamen 54, Acosta 8, Olaitiman 5, R. Pelisamen 4, B. Pelisan 3, J. Pelisamen 2.

Bandits 78 – Mendoza 33, Alegre 12, Fernando 12, Achas 8, De Guzman 7, Odicta 3.

Scoring by quarters: 27-18, 42-46, 57-63, 79-78.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen, seen here pulling up for a floater against two Hite players during a regular season game in the DLX caging last month, scored 54 points in their 79-78 win over the Bandits last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

CNMI swimmers start new season Sept. 20

The new swimming season in the CNMI will begin later this month with 20 local and international events lined up under the 2014-2015 calendar.

First up is the Saipan Swim Club-organizer Minnie Me Meet, which is set for Sept. 20. Up next is the first Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation-sanctioned swim meet scheduled for Oct. 4 at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Times will be considered official and swimmers from both SSC and Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan will aim to break or equal CNMI national and age group records.

For the month of November, SSC will be back as hosts, as it brings the All Schools Championships. The All Schools will be held on Nov. 8 and will feature swimmers in the elementary, middle school, and high school divisions.

In December, there will be three events lined up with the biggest one featuring an international competition—the 12th FINA World Swimming Championships (25m). The short course tournament will take place in Doha, Qatar from Dec. 3 to 7 and NMISF will choose the CNMI's representatives to the five-day contest.

While selected swimmers from CNMI compete in Qatar, other local bets will have the opportunity to go for PBTs and CNMI marks as they participate in the NMISF midseason meet set for Dec. 6. Tsunami Saipan will host the competition where official times will be considered in the CNMI record books. For the third and last event for December, SSC will have the Jingle Bell Fun Run slated for Dec. 17.

SSC will open 2015 with a Pentathlon and Masters Meet on Jan. 24, followed by the Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim in the waters off the Pacific Islands Club on Feb. 7.

For March, there will be two competitions with the first one—the SSC International Meet—taking place on March 13 and 14. The international meet will have SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers racing against representatives of Guam, Palau, and the Marshall Islands. Once the two-day international meet is complete, swimmers will head to the open water for the second event of the month—the SSC Ocean Swim.

Meanwhile, the 10 remaining events under NMISF calendar are as follows: Escape from Managaha (April 11), Swim Marathon (April 23), NMISF season closing meet (May 2), Guam B/C Champs (May 2) Guam Swimming Federation Championships (May 29-30), Summer Fun Open Water 1 (June 6), Eagle Ray Ocean Swim (June 21), Summer Fun Open Water 2 (July 18), FINA World Championships 50m (July 24), and Summer Fun Open Water 3 (Aug. 2). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Swimmers at the starting block during the 2013 SSC International Swim Meet early this year. SSC and Tsunami Saipan swimmers will return to action later this month for the 2014-2015 season.

White calls for active role from each sports federation

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Northern Mariana Sports Association president Michael White wants all sports federations to be more aggressive with their respective development programs.

The longtime NMSA president said he is requiring all member federations to submit their respective four-year developmental plan to monitor the growth of their grassroots programs.

White, during last week's NMSA monthly meeting at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room, said that federations need not to be specific about their respective plans.

"All I need is a brief summary of what's the direction that each federation is going. Four paragraphs will be fine," said the practicing lawyer in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

White said he is expecting the reports to be submitted by each federation during NMSA's next monthly meeting on Oct. 3.

Aside from the four-year plan, White is also asking sports federations to hold an annual national championship and an open tryout in choosing athletes that will represent the CNMI in off-island competitions like the Micronesian Games, Pacific Mini Games, and the Pacific Games.

"This should be open to everybody. Be it in individual or team sports," said White.

White's request is in connection with the CNMI's preparation to the 2015 Pacific Games set in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea from July 4 to 18 and next year's 28th Summer Universiade in Gwangju in South Korea from July 3 to 14.

The CNMI will be sending athletes in track and field, beach volleyball, golf, lawn tennis, and triathlon.

"Both the Pacific Games and the Universiade will happen almost simultaneously. We have to put the entry by names in late 2014 for the Pacific Games, while we plan to send two athletes to the Universiade," said White.

White added that he wants the CNMI to send one representative each from athletics and swimming. They will be accompanied by their respective coaches and officials, and NMSA vice president and former Northern Marianas Athletics head Kurt Barnes, who will act as the chef de mission.

McIlroy shares lead at BMW Championship

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ghasias Brothers boots out Bandits, makes playoff

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PIC, Fiesta dispatch separate foes

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Fiesta Resort Saipan dispatched separate foes to keep their respective finals hopes alive in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PIC needed a strong second half in completing a come-from-behind 87-84 win over World Resort, while Fiesta eliminated Kanoa Resort, 81-77, in a pair of equally important matches.

PIC trailed the entire first half and even stared at an 11-point deficit, 23-12, in the opening quarter.

But behind Jack Aranda and James Abuy, who combined for 18 points in the second period with the latter draining consecutive 3-pointers, PIC cut World Resort's lead to 46-45 at the turn.

Bryl Alegre then took over in the third, knocking in 10 points as PIC outscored World Resort to enjoy a 70-60 spread entering the final canto.

PIC played with a lot of composure in the fourth quarter, protecting its lead by quashing every World Resort comeback try.

Aranda scattered 22 points to pace PIC's scoring with Alegre adding 19 markers, while Jake Quitugua had 14. Abuy and Ray Babauta finished with 12 and 11 points each.

Team captain Dennis Vinas led World Resort's losing cause with 20 points, while John Lewis Sr., Jomar Danas, and Eugene Manglona contributed 18, 17, and 16 markers, respectively.

In the second game, top seed Fiesta also fortified its finals chances with a hard-earned 81-77 victory over Kanoa Resort.

Lerio Pagarao and Djay Ong

See PIC on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Pacific Island Club's Jack Aranda, center, tries to get past four World Resort defenders in their game in the 2014 Budweiser Inter-Hotel Basketball League Thursday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Jericho intimidated by Rain or Shine coach Guiao's presence

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Intimidating is the first word that Jericho Cruz could think of when he first met Rain or Shine head coach Yeng Guaio during the Elasto Painters' practice.

After all, Guiao is an imposing figure in the Philippine Basketball Association (PBA) where he is one of the very vocal mentors in Asia's first pay-for-play league.

Guiao is a known disciplinarian when it comes to coaching.

"It was kind of scary to approach [Coach Yeng], I just talked to him once during our team practice," said the former Adamson Soaring Falcon.

"Coach Yeng has that in-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Jericho Cruz, center, is hoping to shake off his rookie jitters when he makes his debut for Rain or Shine in the Philippine Basketball Association.

Blue Haus, Saipan Ice bag last 2 playoff spots

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REPORTER

Blue Haus and Saipan Ice & Water took the last two playoff berths in the DL Corp Invitational Basketball League Season 4.

Saipan Ice got a free ride to the first round of the playoffs after Blue Haus dropped its last regular season game against Island Floral, 81-99, last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Blue Haus, Maplas, and Saipan Ice are tied for the seventh to ninth spots in the team standings with their similar 2-6 records and the latter won the tiebreak (points) to gain the seventh playoff ticket and leave the two other squads to battle for the eighth and last.

Blue Haus and Maplas squared off in a win-or-go-home match last Saturday with the former coasting to a 106-88 victory to catch the last bus to the playoff round.

Blue Haus got off to a jackrabbit start, leading at 33-6, and never looked back, withstanding Maplas' repeated comeback bids. Maplas sliced the deficit to as low as 7 points, 67-74, in the opening minute of fourth canto, but Blue Haus put the game away with a 13-3 bomb, with 5:05 left in the match. Jesse

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Edwin Camacho slices through the defense of Maplas' McLain Achas, left, and Edmark Mendoza during the third quarter of their knockout game in the DL Corp. caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.